



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Agency” or “SABGSA”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold a public hearing during its regular **Board Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 18, 2022**, at the **Los Alamos Community Services District located at 82 St. Joseph Street, Los Alamos, CA 93440**. Virtual options are available for public participation.¹

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83252082959?pwd=SFhYWkxnaTJtZXlYQnE5VUNCUFc5QT09>

Meeting ID: 832 5208 2959 Passcode: 360900

Dial: (669) 900 6833

SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion, answer questions, or take any action on any items presented during public comments. At the Board’s discretion, any issue raised during Public Comment may be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. The presiding Chair shall limit public comments to no more than three minutes.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes from September 20, 2022, Regular Meeting

b. Agency Finances, Budget, and Training

- i. The Board will receive a report from the accountant regarding finances and expenses.
- ii. The Board will receive a report regarding training.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Executive Director Update

- Update on activities performed by the Executive Director

b. San Antonio Basin Water District Update

- Update on San Antonio Basin Water District activities

c. Advisory Committee Updates

- Update on Advisory Committee

d. Board Member Updates

¹ SABGSA will make reasonable efforts to make the meeting accessible virtually; however, if one of the virtual options are unavailable due to technological issues, you are invited to take advantage of the other options, including in-person attendance.

- Board members will provide any updates relevant to the SABGSA

6. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Consider Ordinance No. 22-001 Establishing SABGSA Rules and Regulations and Requiring Landowners to Complete a Well Registration Form

The Board will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on a proposed Ordinance (SABGSA Ordinance No. 22-001) establishing SABGSA Rules and Regulations, including requiring landowners to complete and submit a Well Registration Form. Well registration is identified as a Tier 1 Management Action in the Agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The Board may take action to approve Ordinance No. 22-001, as read by title only (first reading), waive further reading, and continue the Ordinance for adoption at its November 15, 2022 meeting; and to approve the associated Well Registration Form to implement the Ordinance. The Board also may provide specific direction to staff, the Ad Hoc Committee, or SABGSA legal counsel related to this item.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Discuss and Consider Submitting an Application to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to Obtain a SGMA Implementation Grant Under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant (SGM) Program

The funding cycle for the SGM Grant Program's SGMA Implementation Round 2 grant solicitation is open. The Board will receive a presentation from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. on the grant's proposal solicitation package, list of eligible projects in accordance with the SABGSA's GSP, and implementation guidelines. The Board will review and discuss whether to pursue the grant and determine which project or projects should be included in the application. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to SABGSA staff and/or GSI Water Solutions, Inc. related to this item.

b. Consider Resolution No. 22-003 Designating an Authorized Representative to Submit an Application and Execute an Agreement with the State of California for the Round 2 SGMA Implementation Grant

The Board will discuss and consider Resolution 22-003 designating an authorized representative to submit a grant application to the Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant and execute an Agreement with the State of California upon award of the grant. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to the SABGSA Chair, SABGSA staff or SABGSA legal counsel related to this item.

c. Consider a Proposal from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. to Assist with Preparing the SGMA Implementation Grant Application for Round 2 Funding

The Board will review and discuss a proposed scope of work and associated fees for GSI Water Solutions, Inc. to assist the SABGSA with preparing an application to obtain a SGMA Implementation Grant under the 2021 SGM Grant Program. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to SABGSA staff and/or GSI Water Solutions, Inc. related to this item.

d. Consider a Proposal from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the GSP Annual Report

The Board will review and discuss a proposed scope of work and associated fees for GSI Water Solutions, Inc. to prepare the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2022 in compliance with requirements under SGMA. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to SABGSA staff and/or GSI Water Solutions, Inc. related to this item.

8. ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING: November 15, 2022, at 6pm



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Tuesday, September 20, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order by President Sharer at 6:00pm at the Los Alamos Community Services District, 82 St. Joseph Street, Los Alamos, CA. Members of the public had the option to participate virtually or in-person.

Board of Directors Present: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

Alternates present, but not acting on behalf of a Director: Jim Stollberg

Directors Absent: Pat Huguenard

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

No public comments received.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. **Minutes from August 16, 2022, SABGSA Board Meeting**

Motion by Director Durant, second by Director Pata to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2022, Board meeting as presented.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

Nos: None; **Absent:** Pat Huguenard; **Abstain:** None.

- b. **Agency Finances, Budgeting, and Training**

Motion by Alternate Director Kline, second by Director Wrather to approve the financial report as presented.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

Nos: None; **Absent:** Pat Huguenard; **Abstain:** None.

5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. **Executive Director Updates**

Executive Director Stephanie Bertoux reported the following.

- Frequently asked questions for SABGSA's well verification policy have been drafted and will be updated following a coordination meeting with County EHS.
- Well monitoring/measurements for Q3 2022 took place on September 12 and 13, 2022. The Q3 report will be available in early October and will be posted to SABGSA's website.
- The scope of work for the Annual Report has been developed and a proposal will be presented to the Board at the October meeting.

- AB 2201 did not pass the Assembly. SABGSA will continue to monitor new iterations of this bill as they are developed.

b. San Antonio Basin Water District Update

SABWD Executive Director Donna Glass reported that there were two open positions on the SABWD Board of Directors. Two candidates ran unopposed for re-election and will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors to four-year terms. Ms. Glass also reported that approximately \$227,000 has been collected to date for the FY 2022-23 Assessment.

c. Advisory Committee Updates

The Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for September 6, 2022 was cancelled. The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2022. The main topic of discussion will be the conceptual framework for the well registration program.

d. Board Member Updates

Alternate Director Jim Stollberg commented that there may be an opportunity for the SABGSA to apply for funding for groundwater recharge and other agricultural water management projects through the USDA's Watershed Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) program.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. SABGSA Check Signing Authority and Bank Signature Card

The Board discussed adding the SABGSA President/Board Chair and the SABGSA Secretary to the Agency's bank signature card and authorizing these two officers to sign checks on behalf of the Agency, consistent with the Agency's bylaws, and removing the previous Executive Director as an authorized signer on the Agency's accounts.

Motion by *Alternate Director Kline*, second by *Director Merrill* to authorize President Randy Sharer and Secretary Stephanie Bertoux to sign checks on behalf of the SABGSA and add them both to the bank signature card at Community Bank of Santa Maria and remove previous Executive Director Anna Olsen from the bank signature card.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

Nos: None; **Absent:** Pat Huguenard; **Abstain:** None.

b. SABGSA Well Registration Program Conceptual Framework

Executive Director Stephanie Bertoux presented the draft conceptual framework for the Well Registration Program, including a draft well registration form, developed by the Well Registration and Metering Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion by *Director Merrill*, second by *Alternate Director Kline* to approve the content of the well registration form with two changes: remove annual water use section under #3 and add the landowner's designated representative as an authorized signer under #5; direct Executive Director Stephanie Bertoux to present the well registration conceptual framework to the Advisory Committee for input at their next meeting on October 4, 2022; and direct legal counsel to prepare the Ordinance for the well registration program.

Ayes: Tom Durant, Juan Gomez, Alternate Richard Kline, Kevin Merrill, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

Nos: None; **Absent:** Pat Huguenard; **Abstain:** None.

8. NEXT MEETING: October 18, 2022 at Los Alamos Community Services District

9. ADJOURN - 7:26pm

ORDINANCE NO. 22-001

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN ANTONIO BASIN
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY REQUIRING LANDOWNERS TO
COMPLETE A WELL REGISTRATION FORM**

WHEREAS, the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Agency”) was formed pursuant to a joint exercise of powers agency (“JPA”) executed on May 16, 2017 between the Cachuma Resource Conservation District and the Los Alamos Community Services District;

WHEREAS, the Agency decided to become the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSA”) for the San Antonio Creek Valley Basin (“Basin”) on June 14, 2017;

WHEREAS, the San Antonio Basin Water District replaced the Cachuma Resource Conservation District as a member of the JPA on May 19, 2020;

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”), on December 7, 2021, the Agency adopted the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“Plan”) that establishes the Agency’s groundwater management program and sustainability goal for the Basin;

WHEREAS, SGMA, authorizes a local GSA to manage a groundwater basin in a sustainable manner pursuant to its groundwater sustainability plan;

WHEREAS, to assist in its management, Water Code Section 10725.2 authorizes GSAs such as the Agency to adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of complying with SGMA and perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of SGMA;

WHEREAS, to effectively implement sustainable groundwater management with the Basin, the Agency desires to adopt an ordinance establishing rules and regulations in accordance with SGMA;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code Section 10725.6, a GSA may require registration of any groundwater extraction facility, such as groundwater wells, within the Agency’s management area;

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies development of a groundwater extraction facility registration regulations as a Tier 1 Management Action;

WHEREAS, to sustainably manage the Basin, the Agency requires accurate data regarding the location and number of groundwater extraction facilities, including information on current groundwater wells and new groundwater wells; and

WHEREAS, to implement the Plan, the Agency finds it necessary and in the best interest of both the Agency and the Basin to adopt an ordinance requiring all landowners within the Basin to register any and all groundwater extraction facility on their property.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals Incorporated

The above recitals are supported by substantial evidence, incorporated herein by reference and each relied upon independently by the SABGSA Board of Directors in its adoption of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. SABGSA Rules and Regulations

The SABGSA Board of Directors adopts the “San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Rules and Regulations” (“SABGSA Rules and Regulations”), attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, and finds the SABGSA Rules and Regulations are consistent with the Plan and shall promote implementation of the Plan in accordance with SGMA.

SECTION 3. Amendment

This Ordinance may be added to, amended, and/or repealed at any time by adoption of a subsequent ordinance of the SABGSA Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after the second reading.

SECTION 5. Actions Against SABGSA

Nothing contained in this Ordinance shall constitute a waiver by the Agency or estop the Agency from asserting any defenses or immunities from liability as provided in law, including, but not limited to, those provided in Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

SECTION 6. Administrative Authorization.

The Agency Executive Director or designee is hereby authorized and directed to take any such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the intent of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution. The Agency Board of Directors hereby declares that it would have passed and adopted this Ordinance, and each and all provisions hereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more provisions may be declared invalid.

SECTION 8. California Environmental Quality Act

The SABGSA Board of Directors finds that adoption of this Ordinance, including the SABGSA Rules and Regulations, is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15307, 15308 and 15061 subdivision (b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (“CEQA Guidelines”) because the Ordinance will support implementation of the Plan by establishing rules and regulations to support groundwater management in order to prevent environmental degradation associated with groundwater overdraft and said rules and regulations will not have a significant effect on the environment.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Ordinance No. 22-001 was duly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency at a meeting held on the ____ day of ____, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Randy Sharer, Board President
San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

ATTEST:

Stephanie Bertoux, Secretary
San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

EXHIBIT A

San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Rules and Regulations

SECTION 1. Definitions

- A. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, the following definitions apply:
1. “AF” means acre-foot.
 2. “APN” means the Santa Barbara County Assessor’s Parcel Number for a property.
 3. “Agency” or “SABGSA” shall refer to the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
 4. “Groundwater Extraction Facility” shall mean a groundwater well or any device or method for extraction of groundwater within the Basin.
 5. “Operator” shall mean the person responsible for operating a Groundwater Extraction Facility. The owner of the property containing the Groundwater Extraction Facility shall be conclusively presumed to be the operator unless otherwise declared on the Registration.
 6. “Property Owner” shall mean the fee title owner of land within the Agency’s boundaries, including all San Antonio Basin Water District landowners and all Los Alamos Community Services District customers, or the owner’s legal designee.
 7. “Registration” shall mean submission of the groundwater well registration information as specified in Section 2 of these Rules and Regulations to the Agency.

SECTION 2. Groundwater Well Registration

The Property Owner and/or Operator of each Groundwater Extraction Facility within the Basin shall provide the Agency with groundwater well registration information (to the extent known to the Property Owner and/or Operator at the time of registration) by filling out and submitting a registration form issued by the Agency and returned to the Agency’s PO Box or via email.

A. Existing Wells

All existing Groundwater Extraction Facilities located within the boundaries of SABGSA shall be registered with the Agency within sixty (60) days of receiving a registration form and no later than March 31, 2023, whichever occurs later. The Property Owner and/or Operator of a Groundwater Extraction Facility must provide, in full, the information requested on the Agency’s registration form, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Name and contact information of the Property Owner;
2. Name and contact information of the Operator, if different than the Property Owner;
3. If appropriate, a certification that the Property Owner does not have a Groundwater Extraction Facility located on their property;
4. Type of Groundwater Extraction Facility and water use;
5. Annual water use information;
6. Groundwater Extraction Facility APN and State Well Number;
7. Physical address and geographic location of each Groundwater Extraction Facility;
8. Date of construction;
9. Well depth;
10. Activity status of the Groundwater Extraction Facility;
11. List of APNs that the Groundwater Extraction Facility serves;
12. Manufacturer/model and type of Groundwater Extraction Facility measuring device, such as a flow meter (for certain users);
13. Recording units of the measuring device (for certain users);
14. Signature of the Property Owner.

B. New Wells

All new Groundwater Extraction Facilities located within the Boundaries of SABGSA shall be registered with the Agency, via the same form described above in Section 2.A, no later than March 31, 2023 or within sixty (60) days of well completion, whichever occurs later.

C. Changes to Registration

Any change to the information provided in the well registration form described above in Section 2.A, including but not limited to, a change to the Property Owner or Operator of a Groundwater Extraction Facility, must be reported within thirty (30) days of when the change takes effect.

D. Registration Confidentiality

The Agency shall keep the information contained in a Registration confidential to the extent permissible under applicable law.

SECTION 3. Reserved.

SECTION 4. Reserved.

SECTION 5. Reserved.

SECTION 6. Reserved.

SECTION 7. Reserved.

SECTION 8. Reserved.

SECTION 9. Reserved.

SECTION 10. Penalties.

Failure to comply with these Rules and Regulations may result in administrative and civil penalties, in accordance with Water Code Section 10732, as may be determined by the Board. Remedies identified in these Rules and Regulations are not intended to be exclusive. Any other remedy available to the Agency in law or equity may be employed at the discretion of the Board to address any circumstance related to the management of the Basin in accordance with SGMA, the Agency Plan, or other SABGSA Rules and Regulations.



**SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
WELL REGISTRATION FORM**

Please return by March 31, 2023

Please fill out one form per well. Please return your form(s) to the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SABGSA") by mail to P.O. Box 196, Solvang, CA 93464 or via email to admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org.

If you do not have a well located on your property, you are still required to fill out items 1, 2, and 5 below and return the registration form. The SABGSA encourages all property owners to submit their registration forms in advance of the March 31, 2023 deadline. Failure to submit a completed form by March 31, 2023, or within 60 days of the date of the well completion report for any well constructed after March 31, 2023, may result in a penalty.

1. Contact Information

a. Property Owner Information

Contact Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address(es): _____

Assessor's Parcel No(s). (APN(s)): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

SAB Water District Assessment Number (if applicable):

b. Operator Information (if different than above)

Contact Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

2. Well Located on Property

If you do not have a well located on your property, please check the box below. You may skip items #3 and #4. Please sign item #5 and return both pages of this registration form to SABGSA.

I certify that I do not have a well located on the property listed above in item #1.a.



**SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
WELL REGISTRATION FORM**

3. Well and Current Type of Water Use Information (mark all that apply)

Type of Well

- Domestic Municipal or Industrial
 Agricultural / Irrigation Livestock Watering
 Other (Specify use): _____

Annual Water Use Information

- I declare that I am a de minimis user extracting less than 2 acre-feet per year for domestic purposes only.
 I declare that I use more than 2 acre-feet per year.

4. Well Information and Location

- a. APN: _____ State Well No. (if known): _____
b. Well Location (Physical Address): _____
c. Well Location (Lat/Long): _____
d. Date of Construction (if known): _____
e. Well Depth (below surface, if known): _____
f. Status: Active Inactive Abandon - Date Abandon (if known): _____
g. Who does this well serve: Only the APN listed above Additional APNs. Please list additional APNs: _____
 Check this box if the well has a water meter and complete the information below.
Manufacturer/Model: _____
Type:
 Propeller Ultrasonic Electromagnetic
 Other: _____
Does the meter have a totalizer? Yes No
Meter Recording Units:
 Gallons 100s of Gallons 1000s of Gallons
 Cubic Feet HCF (hundred cubic feet) Cubic Meters

5. Signature of Property Owner or Property Owner's Legal Designee

I attest that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DWR – SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant Information Summary *For Discussion at the October 18, 2022 Board Meeting*

All supporting documents can be found at:

<https://water.ca.gov/sqmgrants>

Eligibility: High and medium priority groundwater basins, including critically overdrafted basins.

Minimum Grant Amount: \$1 million

Eligible Projects: Revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP or Alternative to a GSP. The Project or Component must fill known data gaps and address comments received from DWR after its review of a submitted GSP or Alternative to a GSP, if received. If the applicant has not received comments from DWR on their GSP or Alternative to a GSP, the Project or Component must be consistent with SGMA regulations and GSP requirements.

For Consideration by the Board: Because DWR has not yet provided comments on the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) GSP, GSI Water Solutions recommends including Tier 1 projects summarized in Table 6-1 of the Basin GSP and monitoring network maintenance projects identified in the Basin’s Quarterly Groundwater Level Monitoring Technical Memorandums for 2022 in the SABGSA’s Grant application.

Program Schedule:

Milestone/Activity	Tentative Schedule
Grant Solicitation Opens	October 4, 2022
Application Workshop	October 20, 2022, 10 a.m.-Noon (PST)
Grant Solicitation Closes	November 30, 2022, at 5 p.m. (PST)
Draft Award List Posted for Public Review	May 2023
Final Award List Posted	August 2023
Execute Agreements	September-November 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 22-003

Resolved by the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, that an application be made to the Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Pub. Resources Code, § 80000, et seq.) and the Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022. Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency has the authority and shall enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Water Resources to receive a grant for the: **<Insert Project Name>**.

The **<Insert title of Authorized Applicant Official>** of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, execute a funding agreement and any future amendments thereto, submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the Department of Water Resources.

Passed and adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency on October 18, 2022.

Authorized Original Signature

Printed Name:

Title:

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency held on October 18, 2022.

Clerk/Secretary: Stephanie Bertoux



October 13, 2022

Stephanie Bertoux
Executive Director
San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
920 East Stowell Rd.
Santa Maria, CA 93454
admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org

Dear Ms. Bertoux:

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI), is pleased to present this scope of work and budget to assist the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (SABGSA) with the preparation and submittal of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program, Round 2 solicitation grant (Grant) application. The SGM Grant Program, Round 2 solicitation opened October 4, 2022, for eligible applicants located within eligible high and medium priority groundwater basins, including critically overdrafted basins. The solicitation will close on November 30, 2022, at 5pm. DWR is hosting a public applicant workshop on October 20, 2022.

Distribution of grant funding will be prioritized to applicants who have not previously received SGMA Implementation funding. Funds can be used for revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or Alternative to a GSP and for funding capital improvement projects outlined in those plans. Eligible project types include:

- Activities and/or tasks that consist of the development of groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects;
- Projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serve as a source of drinking water
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation
- Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential; early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge; or projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat; and
- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP or Alternative to a GSP. The Project or Component must fill known data gaps and address comments received from DWR after its review of a submitted GSP or Alternative to a GSP, if received. If the applicant has not received comments from DWR on their GSP or Alternative to a GSP, the Project or Component must be consistent with SGMA regulations and GSP requirements.

DWR has set a minimum Grant amount of \$1 million per basin. Because DWR has not yet provided comments on the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) GSP, GSI recommends including Tier 1 projects summarized in Table 6-1 of the Basin GSP (Table 6-1 is attached for reference) and monitoring network maintenance projects identified in the Basin's Quarterly Groundwater Level Monitoring Technical Memorandums for 2022 in the Basin's Grant application. GSI proposes to assist the SABGSA with completing (including

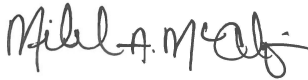
evaluation of potential projects, development of project descriptions, budgets, and work plans, and answer evaluation questions) and submitting¹ the Grant in accordance with the SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package (Grant Solicitation Package), dated December 2021. Evaluation criteria for the Grant is outlined in Table 7 of the Grant Solicitation Package.

These services would be performed at the specific direction of the SABGSA Executive Director in accordance with the terms of GSI's On-Call Hydrogeological Services contract for fiscal year 2022-2023 with the SABGSA. GSI will perform the work on a time and materials basis in accordance with the attached rate sheet. Because it is not certain to what extent GSI will be asked to assist in the development of the grant application, GSI is proposing that the SABGSA authorize a budget allocation of **\$35,000**. This amount will not be exceeded without the written approval of the Executive Director. On a monthly basis, GSI will provide a summary of activities that were performed that month with the associated cost.

We thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for allowing GSI to continue to serve the interests of the SABGSA.

You may indicate your acceptance of this proposal by signing on the space provided below.

Sincerely,
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.



Michael McAlpin, PG
Consulting Hydrogeologist



Jeff Barry
Principal Hydrogeologist

Approved by

Date

¹ Applicants must submit a complete application online using DWR's GRanTS electronic submittal tool.

Table 6-1. Summary of Benefits, Cost, Reliability, and Permitting Requirements for Management Actions and Projects

	Implementation Tier Level	Relevant Measurable Objective Benefits					Required Permits	Pumping Reduction Outcome Reliability	Estimated Implementation Cost	Benefit : Cost Ratio
		Groundwater Levels	Reduction in Storage	Water Quality	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Subsidence				
Management Actions										
Address Data Gaps										
Expand Monitoring Well Network in the Basin to Increase Spatial Coverage and Well Density	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Santa Barbara County (if a new well)	N/A	\$20,000 to \$200,000	Moderate - High
Perform Reference Point Elevation and Video Surveys in Representative Wells That Currently Do Not Have Adequate Construction Records to Confirm Well Construction	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	N/A	\$25,000 to \$75,000	High
Install Stream Gages at Barka Slough	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Santa Barbara County, CDFW	N/A	\$75,000 to \$125,000	High
LACSD Wellfield Pumping Coordination/ Offsite Well Impact Mitigation	1	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	N/A	\$15,000 to \$30,000	High
Review/Update Water Usage Factors and Crop Acreages and Update Water Budget	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	N/A	\$20,000 to \$30,000	High
Survey and Investigate Potential GDEs in the Basin and further characterize Barka Slough	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	N/A	\$50,000 to \$75,000	High
Review USGS Groundwater Model/ Update Hydrologic Conceptual Model, Develop Water Budget for Barka Slough	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	None	N/A	\$50,000 to \$100,000	High
Groundwater Pumping Fee Program	1	X	X	X	X	X	Proposition 26/218 or Local Ballot Initiative	Moderately Reliable	\$100,000 to \$200,000	Moderate - High
Well Registration and Well Meter Installation Programs	1	X	X	X	X	X	None	Moderately Reliable	\$75,000 to \$150,000	Moderate - High
Water Use Efficiency Programs	1	X	X	X	X	X	None	Moderately Reliable	\$50,000 to \$125,000	Moderate - High
Groundwater BPA Program	2	X	X	X	X	X	None	Highly Reliable	\$75,000 to \$150,000	Moderate - High
Groundwater Extraction Credit (GEC) Marketing and Trading Program	2	X	X	X	X	X	None	Highly Reliable	\$150,000 to \$200,000	Moderate - High
Voluntary Agricultural Crop Fallowing Programs	2	X	X	X	X	X	None	Highly Reliable	\$75,000 to \$150,000	Moderate - High

	Implementation Tier Level	Relevant Measurable Objective Benefits					Required Permits	Pumping Reduction Outcome Reliability	Estimated Implementation Cost	Benefit : Cost Ratio
		Groundwater Levels	Reduction in Storage	Water Quality	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Subsidence				
Projects										
Non-Native/Invasive Species Eradication	3	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, CDFW, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	>\$200,000	Moderate
Barka Slough Augmentation Project with Groundwater Supplies Using Existing Wells	3	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, DWR, USACE, CDFW, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	\$200,000 - >\$1,000,000	Low - Moderate
Watershed Management Projects, Including Controlled Burns	3	X	X	X	X	X	Santa Barbara County, CDFW, CEQA	Highly Variable	>\$200,000	Moderate
Distributed Storm Water Managed Aquifer Recharge (DSW-MAR) Basins (In-Channel and Off-Stream Basins)	4	X	X	X	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, DWR, USACE, CDFW, CEQA	Highly Variable	>\$1,000,000	Low - Moderate
LACSD WWTF Recycled Water and Reuse In Lieu of Groundwater Pumping or Indirect Potable Reuse	4	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, DWR, CDFW, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	>\$5,000,000	Low
SABGSA to Become Funding Partner to Santa Barbara County Precipitation Enhancement Program	4	X	X	X	X	X	Santa Barbara County, CEQA	Highly Variable	>\$200,000	Moderate
VSFB Groundwater Pumping Reduction Capital Project Participation (Desalination and/or Recharge and Recovery)	4	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, DWR, USACE, CDFW, USAF, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	>\$5,000,000	Low
Barka Slough Augmentation Project with SWP or Banked Supplemental Water Supplies	4	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, DWR, USACE, CDFW, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	>\$1,000,000	Low
In Lieu Recharge Projects to Deliver Unused and Surplus Imported Water to Offset Groundwater Extractions from LACSD and Agricultural Pumpers	4	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, DWR, CDFW, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	>\$5,000,000	Low
SABGSA to Provide Technical Assistance and Financial Incentives for High Tunnel (“Hoop Houses”) Rainwater Harvesting Projects for Supplemental Irrigation Water Supplies and/or Groundwater Recharge	4	X	X	N/A	X	X	Santa Barbara County, RWQCB, CEQA	Moderately Reliable	>\$200,000	Moderate

	Relevant Measurable Objective Benefits					Required Permits	Pumping Reduction Outcome Reliability	Estimated Implementation Cost	Benefit : Cost Ratio
	Groundwater Levels	Reduction in Storage	Water Quality	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Subsidence				

Notes

BPA = Base Pumping Allocation

CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act

DSW-MAR = Distributed Storm Water Managed Aquifer Recharge

DWR = California Department of Water Resources

GDE = groundwater dependent ecosystem

LACSD = Los Alamos Community Services District

N/A = not applicable

RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board

SWP = State Water Project

SABGSA = San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USAF = U.S. Air Force

USGS = U.S. Geological Survey

VSFB = Vandenberg Space Force Base (previously Vandenberg Air Force Base)

WWTF = Wastewater Treatment Facility



2022 GSI Fee Schedule

Labor Category	Hourly Rate
Technical Professionals	
Principal	\$255 - \$295
Supervising	\$198 - \$265
Managing	\$175 - \$198
Consulting	\$145 - \$177
Project	\$135 - \$151
Staff	\$109 - \$135
Other Services	
GIS/Graphics/Database	\$115 - \$177
Editor/Documents	\$114 - \$146
Administration	\$73 - \$114

The hourly rate for trial preparation and expert witness testimony is 1.5 times the standard billing rate shown above.

Expenses

- **Mileage:** IRS authorized rate/mile plus 10 percent markup
- **Direct expenses and outside services:** Cost plus 10 percent markup
- **Enterprise GIS:** \$50 per month for the duration of use



Scope of Work and Fee Estimate

To: Stephanie Bertoux, Executive Director, San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

From: Michael McAlpin, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Date: September 6, 2022

RE: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report, Water Year 2022, San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI), is pleased to present this proposal to develop the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP or Plan) Annual Report for water year 2022 for the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA). GSI has partnered with the SABGSA to develop the GSP and the GSP first annual report for water years 2019 through 2021 and will be able to leverage this familiarity and first-hand knowledge to ensure on-time delivery and compliance with state regulations.

GSI values our partnership with the SABGSA and appreciate this opportunity to continue to do business with you. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this proposal.

Introduction

The GSP for the Basin outlines steps for achieving groundwater sustainability within 20 years. To measure the effectiveness of the Plan and demonstrate to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that the Basin is on track to manage groundwater sustainably, the GSA will need to compile data and prepare annual reports that summarize the results of monitoring efforts, document changes in groundwater supplies, tabulate basin-wide groundwater use, and track the effectiveness of GSP implementation efforts. A report that accomplishes these requirements is due to DWR on April 1 of each year following the adoption and submittal of the GSP. The regulations require that the annual report be based on the preceding water year (a water year covers the period from October 1 to September 30); thus the water year 2022 annual report for the Basin would, by regulation, report on data from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. The annual report for water year 2022 will include new data from the end of the previous annual report.

Scope of Work

GSI developed the following scope of work based on our understanding of the requirements as outlined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Emergency Regulations, and experience preparing various other annual reports to meet DWR and other agency standards.

Task 1 – Data Analysis and Representation

Several discrete data sets are required to be included in the annual report, including the following:

- Groundwater elevation data (for each principal aquifer)
- Groundwater extraction
- Surface water supply (currently not applicable to the Basin)
- Total water use
- Change in groundwater in storage

The following sections describe the data types that will be presented as required in the annual reports. The datasets will be uploaded to the data management system (DMS) developed previously for the GSP in compliance with GSP requirements. These data will be uploaded to the DWR website as part of this task along with the annual report.

Subtask 1.1 – Groundwater Elevation Data

Groundwater elevation data are collected and compiled through the DWR SGMA website (including data formerly collected through the United States Geological Survey [USGS] Nation Water Information System and California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program), Los Alamos Community Services District (LACSD), and quarterly groundwater monitoring conducted on behalf of the SABGSA by GSI. Available groundwater elevation data will be downloaded from DWR in conjunction with the data from quarterly groundwater monitoring events conducted by GSI.

Previously, GSI developed Annual Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Reports for the SABGSA as part of the Basin's quarterly groundwater monitoring conducted on behalf of the SABGSA by GSI. The report summarized measured groundwater elevation data from the previous four quarters, field observations, and provided recommendations for future monitoring. To prevent duplication of work, GSI proposes to combine the Basin's Annual Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Report for calendar year 2022, with the Basin's GSP Annual Report for water year 2022. Groundwater elevation monitoring data and discussion for 4Q2022 would therefore be included in the Basin's GSP Annual Report for water year 2023. By implementing this change, the SABGSA will have lower costs associated with the annual reporting by approximately \$4,600.

Water level elevation contour maps of each of the principal aquifers (Paso Robles Formation and the Careaga Sand) will be prepared representing groundwater conditions in spring 2022 and fall 2022.

Water level elevation hydrographs (water levels plotted versus time) will be prepared for the 15 representative monitoring wells, which is a subset of the GSP's groundwater level monitoring network. Each of the hydrographs presented in the GSP will be updated with data through fall 2022.

Subtask 1.2 – Groundwater Extraction

Groundwater extraction estimates were prepared for the GSP through water year 2018. These estimates were updated through water year 2021 (period for the GSP first annual report) using groundwater extraction information provided by LACSD, Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB), crop coverage information derived from satellite imagery, crop water use factors defined in the GSP, and total irrigated acres in the Basin provided by the San Antonio Basin Water District (District).

Agricultural water use constituted approximately 96 percent of the total groundwater pumping in the Basin in water years 2019 to 2021. Agricultural water demand was calculated at that time using 2018 land use data prepared by Land IQ, LLC (Land IQ) for DWR¹, the District's assessment data for irrigated acres (SABWD, 2021), DWR evapotranspiration zones (DWR, 2022), and Santa Ynez River Valley Water District (SYRWD) crop-specific water use factors (SYRWCD, 2010; revised by growers in the Basin).

¹ This data was referenced as the California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) 2018 land use data (DWR, 2018b) in the Basin GSP.

Currently, no public annual land use surveys are available for the Basin. A company called Land IQ provides Statewide Crop Mapping for DWR; however, the availability of these data has not been current (the most recent available land use spatial data set is for 2019). For a fee, LandIQ can provide this service² using satellite imagery at a Basin scale on an annual basis to improve the accuracy of the agricultural water use estimates and to accurately account for changes in crop categories, distribution, and acreages within the Basin. For the water year 2022 annual report, GSI proposes to contract with Land IQ to provide the 2022 land use data and will utilize another satellite-based method called OpenET to compute agricultural water use by parcel³. OpenET provides satellite-based estimates of the total amount of water that is transferred from the land surface to the atmosphere through the process of evapotranspiration (ET). OpenET uses Landsat satellite data to produce ET data at a spatial resolution of 30 meters by 30 meters (0.22 acres per pixel). Additional inputs used by the OpenET approach include gridded weather variables such as solar radiation, air temperature, humidity, wind speed, and in some cases, precipitation (OpenET 2022). OpenET provides estimates of ET for the entire land surface, or in other words, “wall to wall”. To produce an estimate of ET specific to the irrigated crop acreage in the Basin, the OpenET results are screened by the land use data set, thereby removing the estimated ET volumes associated with bare ground and native vegetation outside of irrigated areas. The resulting volumes are summed by water year, which then represent estimated annual agricultural groundwater extraction. This method of computing agricultural water use has been adopted by several GSAs in the central valley and elsewhere in California and is accepted by DWR, particularly when metered data is not available.

GSI will compare and contrast the Land IQ/OpenET results with the method used in the last annual report to assess the efficacy of this new approach. Findings will be documented in a technical memorandum along with a recommendation of the preferred methodology for calculating agricultural groundwater pumping within the Basin that will be presented to SABGSA and be included as an appendix in the annual report for water year 2022. GSI will prepare estimates of groundwater use by sector and method of measurement and will provide a map showing general locations and volumes of extraction.

Subtask 1.3 – Surface Water Supply

The regulations require that a description of surface water supplies be incorporated into the annual report. Use of surface water is currently not applicable to the Basin and will be stated as such in the annual report.

Subtask 1.4 – Total Water Use

GSI will compile and present total Basin water use information, including water sector, water source type, method of measurement, and a relative representation of accuracy of the measurement methodology (DWR standards in other annual report submittals that we are familiar with require qualitative judgments such as “high,” “medium,” and “low”).

Subtask 1.5 – Change in Groundwater in Storage

Calculations of changes in groundwater in storage in each of the principal aquifers were presented in the GSP using the water budget spreadsheet tool (see Section 3.3 of the GSP) and validated by computing the change in storage by comparing water level elevation contour maps prepared for the years 2015 and 2018. The difference between the volume of groundwater represented by these two groundwater level surfaces was multiplied by a basin storage coefficient (pore space that can hold water; 0.15 for the Paso Robles Formation and 0.001 for the

² Land IQ can classify all agriculture in the Basin within 97% accuracy with clean topology and Multi-cropping attributes.

³ OpenET uses reference ET data calculated using the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Standardized Penman-Monteith equation for a grass reference surface, and usually notated as ‘ET_o’ (evapotranspiration). For California, OpenET uses Spatial CIMIS meteorological datasets generated by the California DWR to compute ASCE grass reference ET. OpenET provides ET data from multiple satellite-driven models, and also calculates a single “ensemble value” from those models. The models currently included are ALEXI/DisALEXI, eeMETRIC, geeSEBAL, PT-JPL, SIMS, and SSEBop. More information about these models can be found at: <https://openetdata.org/methodologies/>. All of the models included in the OpenET ensemble have been used by government agencies with responsibility for water use reporting and management in the western U.S., and some models are widely used internationally (OpenET 2022).

confined portion [Barka Slough area] of the Careaga Sand) (Martin, 1985) to obtain an estimate of change of groundwater in storage.

GSI plans to use the same methodology for water year 2022 annual report as used for the water year 2021 annual report to calculate change in storage. Changes in groundwater in storage will be calculated by comparing water level contour maps for fall and spring periods for 2021 and 2022 and calculating the changes in volume of groundwater in storage between years. This method is approved by DWR. An ArcGIS® tool will be used to compute the volume difference between the initial groundwater surface and following year's groundwater surface. It is not necessary to know the total volume of groundwater in storage; it is the change of groundwater in storage (positive or negative) from year to year that is required by DWR.

Subtask 1.6 – Progress Toward Meeting Sustainability Goals

The water level elevations and trends observed in the representative wells will be compared to the minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones (sustainable management criteria) presented in the GSP for each well. Based on these data, the condition of the Basin will be described relative to the sustainable management criteria established in the GSP.

Task 2 – Report Preparation

GSI will prepare an initial administrative draft report for SABGSA staff review. A public draft will be prepared incorporating staff comments and a final draft will be prepared after the SAB Board meeting to approve the report. The report will be based on data collected and the analysis performed as described above, on other data that may become available, and on ongoing discussions with the SABGSA.

Task 3 – Report and Data Submittal to DWR

Once approved by the SABGSA Board, GSI will prepare and upload the final report to the DWR SGMA Portal (Portal) as well as water level data and supporting documentation as required by DWR. GSI also proposes to correct historical water level data and reference point elevation data in the Portal for wells located near Barka Slough. As stated in the Basin's 2Q2022 Groundwater Level Monitoring TM, GSI observed that the Basin's Monitoring Network Module on the Portal has some historical (pre-2019) groundwater elevation measurements that are inaccurate due to the calculated value using an inaccurate reference point elevation. These data will be made more accurate by replacing the groundwater elevation values with values calculated using the most up-to-date reference point elevations.

Task 4 – Meetings

GSI has budgeted to participate in up to (2) SABGSA Ad-hoc Committee meetings and (1) SABGSA Board of Directors meeting. This includes preparation of slide decks and figures.

Task 5 – Project Management and Administration

Project management tasks include project setup, bi-weekly invoicing, communications with the SABGSA Executive Director, GSI team coordination, and project close out.

Task 6 – Update Data Management System

GSI will update the Basin's existing DMS consistent with the data submitted to the Portal as described in Task 3.

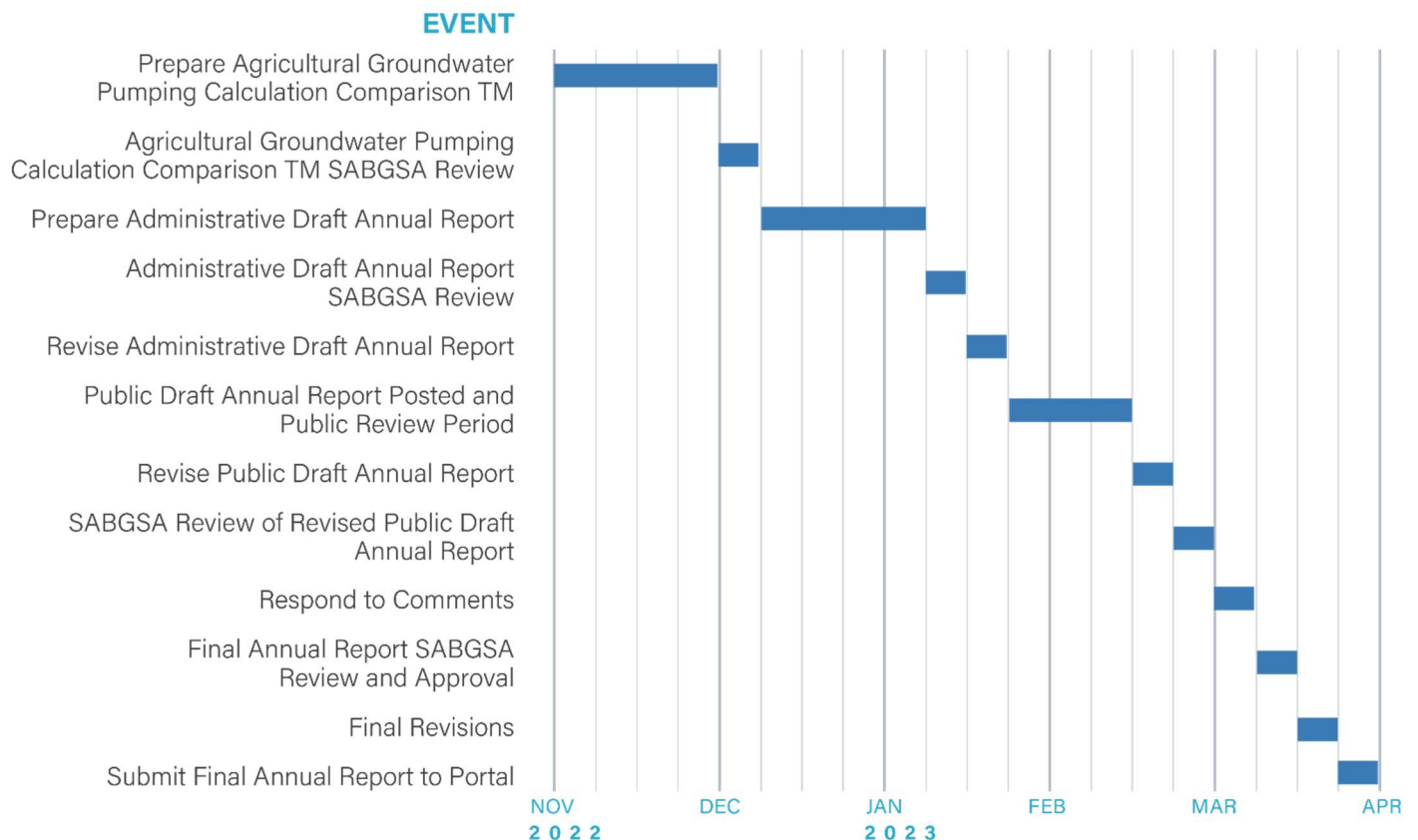
Fee Estimate

GSI's proposed fee to complete the tasks on a time-and-materials basis is \$50,000. This fee estimate includes a 10 percent markup on subconsultant work.

Tasks	Labor Hours	Labor Cost	Outside Services	Total
Task 1 – Data Analysis and Representation	130	\$21,800	\$7,200	\$29,000
Task 2 – Report Preparation	70	\$11,600	\$0	\$11,600
Task 3 – Report and Data Submittal to DWR	12	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
Task 4 – Meetings and Workshop	14	\$2,700	\$0	\$2,700
Task 5 – Project Management and Administration	21	\$2,800	\$0	\$2,800
Task 6 – Update Data Management System	16	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
Project Totals	263	\$42,800	\$7,200	\$50,000

Schedule

The following deliverables schedule provides an outline to submit the annual report for water year 2022 by March 31, 2023.



We have enjoyed working with you and the SABGSA over the past couple of years and appreciate the opportunity to prepare the annual report for water year 2022. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.



Michael McAlpin, PG
Consulting Hydrogeologist



Jeff Barry
Principal Hydrogeologist and Water Resources Consultant