

CENTRAL COAST

*Insights*

CENTRAL COAST  
*Insights*

SGMA and its Economic & Regulatory  
Challenges in Santa Barbara County

-

Kevin Merrill

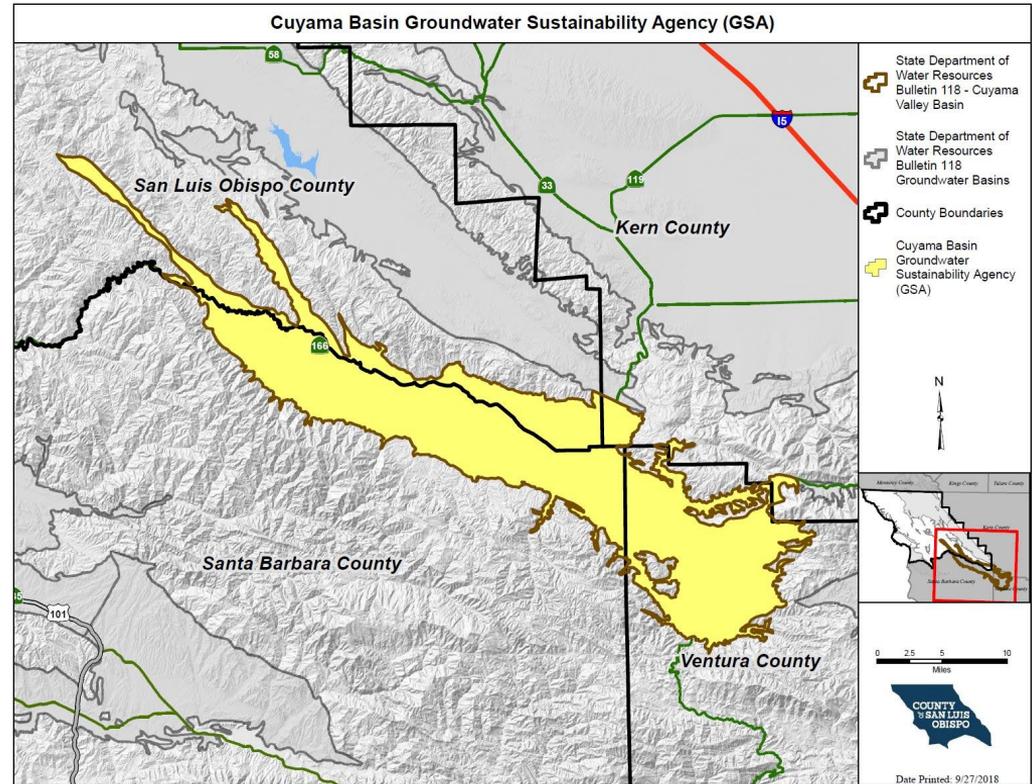
Mesa Vineyard Management

# SGMA in Santa Barbara County

- Basin classifications:
  - Carpinteria – High priority
  - Cuyama – High priority
  - Montecito – Medium priority
  - San Antonio – Medium priority
  - Santa Ynez – Medium priority
- There are roughly 20,000 acres of wine grapes in SB County
  - About 70% of wine grapes are grown within the Cuyama, San Antonio, and Santa Ynez basins

# Cuyama Basin

- High priority/Designated critically overdrafted
- Pending adjudication
- Groundwater extraction fee = \$38 per acre foot as of May 2022
  - De minimis pumpers are exempt (< 2 acre feet)

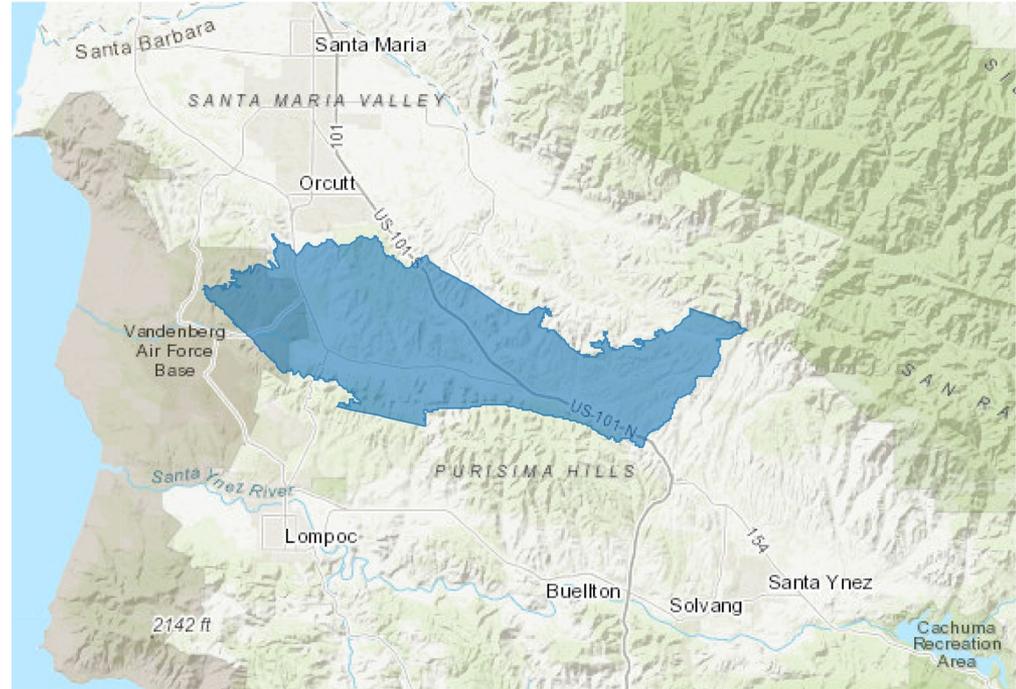


# Cuyama GSA Board

- **Derek Yurosek** Chairperson, Cuyama Basin Water District
- **Vacant** Vice Chairperson, Cuyama Community Services District
- **Byron Albano** Cuyama Basin Water District
- **Cory Bantilan** Santa Barbara County Water Agency
- **Jimmy Paulding** County of San Luis Obispo
- **Zack Scrivner** County of Kern
- **Arne Anselm** County of Ventura
- **Rick Burnes** Cuyama Basin Water District
- **Matt Vickery** Cuyama Basin Water District
- **Das Williams** Santa Barbara County Water Agency
- **Jane Wooster** Cuyama Basin Water District

# San Antonio Basin

- Medium priority
- The current Assessment values are:
  - Irrigated Land - \$60.00 per acre
  - Non-Irrigated Land - \$0.50 per acre
  - Non-Overlying Land - \$0.00 per acre
  - Minimum Assessment - \$50.00



# San Antonio GSA Board

## Board Members:

- **Randy Sharer, 2023 Chair** – Row Crops
- **Tom Durant, 2023 Vice Chair** – Permanent Crops
- **Dan Chabot** – Cattle
- **Juan Gomez** – LACSD Rep.
- **Kevin Merrill** – Vineyard
- **Patrice Mosby** – Vineyard
- **Kenny Pata** – Row Crops
- **Chris Wrather** – Transitional Land Use

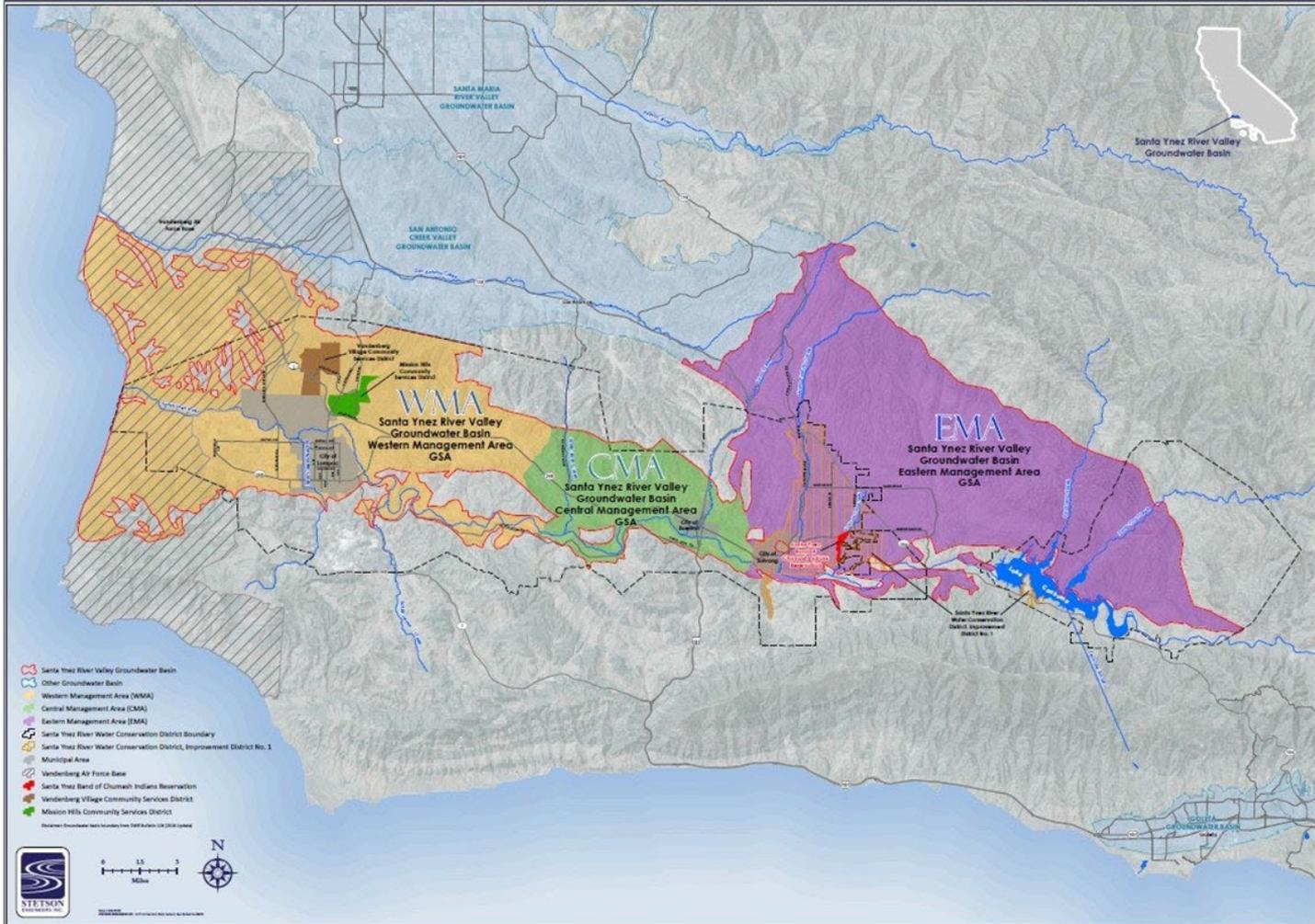
## Alternates:

- **Bart Haycraft** – Vineyard
- **Richard Kline** – Cattle
- **Eric Pooler** – Row Crops
- **Jim Stollberg** – Permanent Crops
- **Marvin Teixeira** – Transitional Land Use
- **Brad Vidro** – LACSD Rep.

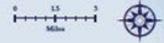
# Santa Ynez River Valley Basin

- Medium priority
- Three GSAs manage the basin
  - Western Management Area (WMA)
  - Central Management Area (CMA)
  - Eastern Management Area (EMA)
- Funded to date by grants and public agencies
  - Such as Santa Ynez River Water Conservation Districts, City of Buellton, City of Solvang, City of Lompoc, County of Santa Barbara, etc.

# SANTA YNEZ RIVER VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN SGMA GSA MANAGEMENT AREAS



- Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
- Other Groundwater Basin
- Western Management Area (WMA)
- Central Management Area (CMA)
- Eastern Management Area (EMA)
- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Boundary
- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1
- Municipal Area
- Vandenberg Air Force Base
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Reservation
- Vandenberg Village Community Services District
- Mission Hills Community Services District



Revised Groundwater Basin Boundaries from 2005 to 2010. USGS 2010 Update.

# WMA GSA Board

- **City of Lompoc**
  - Council Member Jeremy Ball
  - Kristin Worthley
- **Mission Hills Community Services District**
  - Director Myron Heavin
- **Vandenberg Village Community Services District**
  - Director Chris Brooks, WMA GSA Chair
- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District**
  - Director Steve Jordan
  - Director Art Hibbits, Alternate
- **County of Santa Barbara**
  - Supervisor Joan Hartmann (non-voting Committee Member)
  - Meighan Diethenoffer (Alternate non-voting Committee Member)

# CMA GSA Board

- **City of Buellton**
  - Vice Mayor John Sanchez, CMA GSA Vice Chair
  - Council Member David Silva, Alternate
- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District**
  - Director Art Hibbits, CMA GSA Chair
  - Director Cynthia Allen, Alternate
- **County of Santa Barbara**
  - Supervisor Joan Hartmann (non-voting Committee Member)
  - Meighan Diethenoffer (Alternate non-voting Committee Member)

# EMA GSA Board

- **City of Solvang**
  - Mayor Mark Infanti
- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ID No. 1**
  - Trustee Brad Joos, EMA GSA Vice Chair
  - Trustee Mike Burchardi, Alternate
- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District**
  - Director Brett Marymee, EMA GSA Chair
  - Director Cynthia Allen, Alternate
- **County of Santa Barbara**
  - Supervisor Joan Hartmann
  - Meighan Diethenoffer, Alternate

# Santa Ynez GSA Voting Structure

	WMA	CMA	EMA
County Water Agency	Non-Voting Member	Non-Voting Member	5
SYRWCD	4	1	3
SYRWCD ID 1	-	-	2
City of Lompoc	2	-	-
City of Solvang	-	-	1
City of Buellton	-	1	-
VVCSD	1	-	-
MHCSD	1	-	-
Agriculture	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

# Cost of Decreased Water Availability & Allocation

- Fallowing of land & reduction/shift in crops grown
- Loss of jobs
  - Agricultural, transportation, manufacturing, etc.
- Loss of revenue
- Reduced exports to global and national markets
- Reduction in property values

# Be Part of the Solution

- Understand water usage, i.e. water meters
- Maintenance of irrigation systems
- New technology in water saving soil amendments (composts)
- Explore new sources of water for irrigation
- Participate in discussions with GSAs in your basin

# Kevin Merrill

Mesa Vineyard Management

San Antonio Basin GSA Board Member

Santa Ynez River Basin CAG Member

[kmerrill@mesavineyard.com](mailto:kmerrill@mesavineyard.com)