



Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

April 5, 2023

Brett Marymee, Chairman EMA GSA
Art Hibbits, Chairman CMA GSA
Chris Brookes, Chairman WMA GSA

c/o William (Bill) Buelow
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
3669 Sagunto St. Suite 101
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: GSA Committee Agricultural Representation

Gentlemen,

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, a nonprofit California corporation representing approximately 500 agricultural and associate members in Santa Barbara County, is concerned with the lack of agricultural representation on all 3 GSA committees representing the Santa Ynez River Water Basin.

Our members grow a wide variety of crops along with livestock operations within the basin that rely on groundwater that is integral to their operations and the local economy. Our farmers lead in adoption of low volume irrigation methods, such as drip, subsurface and micro irrigation systems.

It is estimated that in a wet year with above average precipitation, agriculture uses 30% of the available groundwater for irrigation, while in a dry year that share could increase to 50%.

Given agriculture's vested interest in maintaining a sustainable water supply in the Santa Ynez River Basin, we believe it is imperative that a representative from agriculture serves on each of the three current GSA Committees, with all members utilizing an equal voting structure. We understand the Santa Ynez Water Group has been actively involved in this process to date and would support candidates vetted by them to serve on the 3 GSA committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Bosio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sheldon Bosio, President.
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau