

Paso Basin Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Templeton Community Center **Thursday, June 18, 2015**
601 S. Main Street, Templeton **2 pm – 4 pm**

www.PasoBasin.org

- | | | |
|--|------------------|---------|
| 1. Introductions and Determination of a Quorum | Committee/Public | 2:00 pm |
| 2. Approve May Meeting Minutes | Chair/Staff | 2:05 pm |
| 3. County Efforts (attachment) | Staff/Chair | 2:15 pm |
| a. Water District Application Review Process Update – Consider moving August, September and October PBAC meeting days | | |
| b. Countywide Water Conservation Program Development Update | | |
| c. Paso Basin Open House follow up | | |
| d. Consider advising the Board of Supervisors regarding County efforts | | |
| 4. Subcommittee Reports/Recommended PBAC Actions (attachments) | Chair/Chairs | 2:55 pm |
| a. Computer Model Update | | |
| b. Conservation | | |
| c. In-Basin Projects | | |
| d. Management – Recommend that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to review the attached Frequently Asked Questions and Responses with legal counsel, verify data sources and revise as needed, and post to the pasobasin.org website | | |
| e. Outreach and Education | | |
| f. Supply Options | | |
| 5. Municipality water use update | Committee | 3:35 pm |
| 6. Public Comment | Public | 3:45 pm |
| 7. Future meeting topics/committee comments | Committee | 3:55 pm |
| 8. Adjourn (Next meeting July 16th, Paso Robles) | Chair | 4:00 pm |

The purpose of the Paso Basin Advisory Committee is to advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning policy decisions relating to:

- Implementation of the Basin Groundwater Management Plan
- Development of a “enhanced” Groundwater Management Plan for the Basin
- Formation of a new water district
- Transition of an initial County-supported district to an independent district
- Other policies and ordinances

The Committee will also serve as a public forum to discuss and collect comments on Basin

PASO BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TEMPLETON COMMUNITY CENTER

May 21, 2015
Draft Meeting Minutes

An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at www.PasoBasin.org

Approximately 2:00 pm the meeting is called to order.

1. Introductions and determination of a Quorum- Quorum established.
2. Approve April meeting minutes- The April 16, 2015, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee minutes were reviewed, it is requested that the attendance record be revised. Member Briltz moves to approve the April meeting minutes less the attendance sheet, second by Member Tracy. (15-0-6-3)
3. Countywide Water Conservation Program Development Update (www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/water-amendments)- Xzandrea Fowler, County Planning, reports on the Planning Commission's first study session on the Countywide Water Conservation Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Due to improper notice of availability of the Draft EIR, the Draft EIR comment period will be re-opened on May 22 and will close on July 6. The scheduled Planning Commission hearings will be used as study sessions; an actual hearing will be held on July 30th. The Committee expresses concern regarding time gap between the expiration of the Urgency Ordinance and adoption of a permanent interim ordinance.
 - a. Consider Subcommittee Recommendations- Member Brown reviews the Management Subcommittee's letter on the Countywide Water Conservation Program- Draft Amendments to Title 22. He mentions the Subcommittee's main concerns are the removal of restrictions on receiving sites when discontinuous from the sending site, a notice should be provided to landowners near a proposed receiving site when the application is accepted for processing, and sunset date should be tied to approval of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Member Wilmore notes the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance Government Affairs Committee has different recommendations than the Management Subcommittee. She suggests no proximity criteria and several other changes to the Title 22 draft amendments. Discussion ensues on the changes recommended by the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance Government Affairs Committee including notifications to surrounding landowners near a proposed discontinuous receiving site. The Committee discusses boundaries of water conservation programs, notification areas, as well as ministerial and discretionary permits. Member Harvey, with a second by Member Kalvans, moves to approve the Management Subcommittee's letter on the Countywide Water Conservation Program, as amended, with the additions that a courtesy notice for ministerial

permits for all CSD's be issued and the area of concern be noted as the Fugro map excluding the Atascadero sub basin. The amendments suggested by Member Wilmore were included in the motion as follows: "An Agricultural Offset Clearance should not be issued to a receiving site for discontinuous properties within the Red Zone as defined by GEI's (Fugro) Generalized Difference in Spring Groundwater Elevations between 1997 – 2013 map. The Red Zone is defined as change in groundwater elevation greater than 50 feet which is illustrated in the map's legend. Landowners within the Red Zone should have the option to apply to the County for a discretionary permit for any discontinuous offset proposal within the Red Zone. Under this process, notice to surrounding landowners near the receiving site is required." The Committee discusses reviewing other letters regarding the Conservation Program before submitting recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Member Harvey withdraws herself as motion maker, Member Kalvans moves to approve the motion with the same language, with a second by Member Wilmore. (21-0-0-3) A suggestion is made to review the Conservation Subcommittee's letter on the Countywide Water Conservation Program at the June meeting.

4. Consider advising the Board of Supervisors to be actively involved in preserving all unallocated Nacimiento water for all appropriate users and that Nacimiento water not be fully subscribed without considering the need to sustainably manage the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin- Discussion ensues on the best use of unallocated Nacimiento water. Alternate Member Halley speaks on the Nacimiento contract and the available surplus water. The Committee discusses County water entitlements, possible uses of the water and expresses interest in the surplus water.
5. County Efforts-
 - a. Water District Formation Process Update- Consider moving August, September, and October PBAC meeting days- John Diodati, County Public Works, reports on the Water District formation process. He mentions that on April 21 the Board of Supervisors approved submitting the Water District application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). He notes that in August refinements to Proposition 218 cost allocation will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. David Church, LAFCO, mentions the first LAFCO meeting is projected for August 20 in San Luis Obispo, meetings in the North County will also be planned. The Committee discusses the Fugro boundary. Mr. Church announces the Groundwater Manager at Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency will be attending the June 18 LAFCO meeting to explain how their agency, which is in Ventura County, works. Discussion ensues on the Fugro boundary, spheres of influence, and Proposition 218. Member Spencer moves to extend the meeting until 4:20 pm, second by Member Kalvans. (21-0-0-3) Member Clark moves to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that LAFCO adopt the Fugro boundary, second by Member Engel. (16-4-1-3) Discussion ensues on the basin watershed boundary.

- b. June 10th Town Hall Meeting- Courtney Howard, County Public Works, asks the Committee members to advertise the meeting wherever possible. The draft presentation will be sent out at a later date for the Outreach Committee's review.
 - c. Consider advising the Board of Supervisors regarding County efforts- No discussion beyond the recommendations discussed earlier.
6. Subcommittee Reports/ Recommended PBAC Actions-
 - a. Computer Model Update- No Discussion
 - b. Conservation- No Discussion
 - c. In-Basin Projects- In response to the request that the LAFCO process be open and accessible, it is noted that the LAFCO meetings will be available for download in both video and MP3 files and streamed live from the County's website.
 - d. Management- No Discussion
 - e. Outreach and Education- No Discussion
 - f. Supply Options- Supply Options Subcommittee distributed meeting minutes from previous meeting.
7. City of Paso Robles water use summary- Member Bollinger requests water purveyors disclose information on sewer plant inflows, Salinas River underflow pumping, Basin pumping, and use to date of Nacimiento water all for calendar years 2010- 2014. Discussion ensues on pumping from private wells within the municipalities.
8. Public Comment- Chair Luft notes that the Committee will need to consider moving the August and September Committee meetings due to LAFCO hearing conflicts. Ms. Sprague requests the audio recording of the April meeting be uploaded to the County's website. Ms. Barrett suggests the Committee address demand management in terms of limiting extractions. Alternate Member Friedman advises the Committee investigate grant money to access surplus water.
9. Future meeting topics/Committee comments- Brief discussion.
10. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned approximately 4:20 pm.

Paso Robles Groundwater Advisory Committee - Roll Call Vote Form
Meeting date: 05/21/2015

Organization	Representative		MOTION 1				MOTION 2				MOTION 3				MOTION 4			
			AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT												
AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS																		
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	John Neil	M	X				X				X				X			
	Jaime Hendrickson	A																
Central Coast Vineyard Team	Kris Beal	M	X				X				X				X			
	Willy Cunha	A																
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M																
	Christine Halley	A			X		X				X				X			
City of San Luis Obispo	John Ashbaugh	M																
	Noah Evans	A	X				X				X					X		
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Robert Johnson	M				X							X					X
	Howard Franklin	A																
Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR)	Steve Sinton	M																
	Kent Gilmore	A	X								X				X			X
Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance	Patricia Wilmore	M	X				X				X				X			
	Jerry Reaugh	A																
San Miguel Community Services District	Anthony Kalvans	M				X	X				X					X		
	Vacant	A																
Shandon (County Service Area 16)	Susan Howard	M				X									X			X
	Vacant	A																
SLO County Cattlemen's Association	Kurt Bollinger	M	X				X				X				X			
	Dale Evanson	A																
SLO County Farm Bureau	Paul Clark	M	X				X				X				X			
	Megan Silcott	A																
Templeton Community Services District	Jeff Brittz	M	X				X				X				X			
	Tina Mayer	A																
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD	Devin Best	M			X		X				X				X			
	Amy Smart	A																
AT-LARGE																		
Viticulture Agriculturalist At-Large	Dana Merrill	M	X				X				X				X			
	Robert Brown	A																
Non-Viticulture Irrigated Crop Agriculturalist At-Large	Bill Spencer	M			X		X				X				X			
	John DeRosier	A																
Environmental At-Large	Sue Harvey	M	X				X				X					X		
	Daniel Meade	A																
Rural Residential At-Large	Sue Luft	M	X				X				X				X			
	Michael Baugh	A																
	Claudia Engel	M			X		X				X				X			
	Maria Lorca	A																
	Edward C. Redig	M			X		X				X				X			
	Jim DeRose	A																
	William Frost	M	X				X				X				X			
	Laurie Gage	A																
	George Tracy	M	X				X				X					X		
	Don Wilson	A																
(District 1)	Randy Diffenbaugh	M	X				X				X				X			
	Randy Heinzen	A																
(District 5)	Erin Faulkner	M			X		X				X							
	Dr. Serena Friedman	A														X		
Undesignated At-Large	Larry Werner	M	X				X				X				X			
	Miller Newlon	A																
Total:			15	0	6	3	21	0	0	3	21	0	0	3	16	4	1	3

MOTION 1

Item #: 2 Pass/Fail?: Pass

Motion Maker: Brittz Seconder: Tracy

AYE: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 6 ABSENT: 3

Motion: Approve April meeting minutes less attendance record.

MOTION 2

Item #: 3.a. Pass/Fail?: Pass

Motion Maker: Kalvans Seconder: Wilmore

AYE: 21 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 3

Motion: Approve the Management Subcommittees letter on the Countywide Water Conservation Program, as amended.

MOTION 3

Item #: 5.a. Pass/Fail?: Pass

Motion Maker: Redig Seconder: Tracy

AYE: 21 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 3

Motion: Extend the meeting by 20 minutes.

MOTION 4

Item #: 5.a. Pass/Fail?: Pass

Motion Maker: Clark Seconder: Engel

AYE: 16 NO: 4 ABSTAIN: 1 ABSENT: 3

Motion: Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they support a modification of the proposed Water District boundaries to the Fugro boundaries, with the Bulletin 118 boundaries forming a positive sphere of influence.

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2015

Organization	Representative		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS															
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	John Neil	M	X	X	Not Recorded		X								
	Jaime Hendrickson	A	X	X			X								
Central Coast Vineyard Team	Kris Beal	M					X	X							
	Willy Cunha	A	X	X			X	X							
City of Atascadero	Vacant	M													
	Vacant	A													
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M													
	Christine Halley	A		X			X	X							
City of San Luis Obispo	John Ashbaugh	M													
	Noah Evans	A	X	X			X	X							
County of Monterey (Resource Management Agency)	Tom Moss*	M													
	Carl Holm*	A													
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Robert Johnson	M													
	Howard Franklin	A	X	X			X								
Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR)	Steve Sinton	M	X	X			X	•							
	Kent Gilmore	A					X	X							
Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance	Patricia Wilmore	M					X	X							
	Jerry Reaugh	A	X	X			X	X							
San Miguel Community Services District	Anthony Kalvans	M	X	X											
	Vacant	A													
Shandon (County Service Area 16)	Susan Howard	M					•								
	Vacant	A													
SLO County Cattlemen's Association	Kurt Bollinger	M		X			X	X							
	Dale Evanson	A		X											
SLO County Farm Bureau	Paul Clark	M	X	X			X	X							
	Megan Silcott	A													
Templeton Community Services District	Jeff Britz	M	X				X	X							
	Tina Mayer	A		X											
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD	Devin Best	M	X			•	X								
	Amy Smart	A													
AT-LARGE															
Viticulture Agriculturalist At-Large	Dana Merrill	M													
	Robert Brown	A	X	X		X	X								
Non-Viticulture Irrigated Crop Agriculturalist At-Large	Bill Spencer	M	X	X			X								
	John DeRosier	A													
Environmental At-Large	Sue Harvey	M	X	X		X	X								
	Daniel Meade	A	X	X		X									
Rural Residential At-Large	Sue Luft	M	X	X		X	X								
	Michael Baugh	A	X	X		X	X								
	Claudia Engel	M	X	X			X								
	Maria Lorca	A	X	X		X	X								
	Edward C. Redig	M	X	X			X								
	Jim DeRose	A													
	William Frost	M	X	X		X	X								
	Laurie Gauge	A	X	X		X	X								
	George Tracy	M	X	X		X	X								
	Don Wilson	A													
(District 1)	Randy Diffenbaugh	M	X	X		X	X								
	Randy Heinzen	A	X	X		X	X								
(District 5)	Erin Faulkner	M	X	X		X	X								
	Dr. Serena Friedman	A	X	X		X	X								
Undesignated At-Large	Larry Werner	M	X	X		X	X								
	Miller Newlon	A				•	X								

M = Member; A = Alternate; NM = New Member; NA = New Alternate; O = Other Representatives (e.g Staff, Council, Board, etc.)
~~strikethrough text~~ = indicates that this individual is no longer serving in this role; • = Notified of absence or conflict

* = To be confirmed at a future BOS meeting

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2015 GUEST LIST

NAME	Affiliation (If Any)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Baird, Bruce	Guest	X		X	X	X							
Banister, Katie	Resident	X											
Barrett, Della	Resident				X	X							
Berg, Carolyn	County Public Works	X		X	X								
Brehe, Andrea	Paso Robles Resident					X							
Brehe, David	Paso Robles Resident					X							
Brown, Robert	Alternate	X	X	X	X	X							
Church, David	LAFCO					X							
Cochran, Cheryl	County Planning					X							
DeBrish, Jeff	Templeton Resident					X							
Diodati, John	County of San Luis Obispo			X	X								
Evenson, Dale	SLO Cattle Association			X									
Fogleman, Vicki	District 1	X	X	X	X	X							
Fowler, Xzandrea	County Planning			X		X							
Gage, Laurie	Rural Resident	X	X	X	X								
Gilmore, Dan						X							
Gilmore, Kent	PRIOR					X							
Grewal, Greg	Rural Resident			X	X								
Hagen, Jim	SLMWC	X			X								
Hanebutt, Michael	County Planning					X							
Hartfell, Richard	USLTRCD					X							
Hollenbeck, John	Atascadero Resident			X									
McKinley, Dick	City of Paso Robles					X							
Mesmer, Mike	KPRL	X											
Montgomery, Wayne	Paso Resident	X		X									
Myhre, Ann		X	X	X	X								
Pelfrey, Gwen	Guest	X	X	X	X	X							
Petersen, Wayne	Guest			X									
Reaugh, Jerry						X							
Sorensen, Paul	Fugro					X							
Sprague, Joy	County Resident					X							
Talea, Carole	Resident	X											
Tallman, April	Rural Resident					X							
Thomas, Craig	Spanish Lake MWC	X											
Thompson, Matt	City of Paso Robles		X			X							

TO: Paso Basin Advisory Committee
FROM: Courtney Howard, Water Resources Engineer
DATE: June 18, 2015
SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 3.a, b and c: County Efforts

Recommendation

Receive an update on County efforts and consider developing recommendations for the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion

Water District Application Review Process Update

The Board of Supervisors directed staff to submit an AB 2453 Paso Robles Basin Water District application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) by a vote of 3-2 during its April 21, 2015 meeting.

<http://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/agenda/sanluisobispo/Proposal.html?select=4559>

LAFCO meetings are the same day as PBAC meetings. The second LAFCO study session on the application is scheduled for the morning of June 18, 2015. It is anticipated that LAFCO will hold morning, afternoon and/or evening hearings on the Water District application during August, September and October, therefore the Committee may wish to reschedule its meetings for those months. A verbal update on the LAFCO schedule will be provided at the meeting.

http://www.slolafco.com/Agendas/2015_June_Agenda.pdf

Countywide Water Conservation Program Development Update

Key dates and information regarding the development of the Countywide Water Conservation Program can be found at the following website:

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/water-amendments/environmental-review.htm>

Paso Basin Open House Follow Up

Staff will be considering scheduling additional informational meetings that incorporate feedback received after the June 10th meeting, developing responses to the questions submitted and posting the questions, responses and meeting materials on the website.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Conservation Subcommittee minutes

Date: June 4th 2015 1:30-3:30 am RCD Office

- I. Introduction and determination of a quorum:
 - A. Members present:
 1. Claudia Engel: Rural at Large
 2. Devin Best: US-LT RCD
 3. Mike Baugh: Rural at Large
 4. Bill Spencer: Irrigated Agriculture at Large (Non-Viticulture)
 5. Anthony Kalvans: San Miguel CSD
 6. Robert Brown: Irrigated Agriculture at Large (Viticulture)
 7. Randy Heinzen: District 5
 - B. Members Absent:
 1. Kris Beal: Central Coast Vineyard Team
 - C. Member Reports:
 1. Member Engel gave a report on In-Basin subcommittee. Member Best attended and gave In-Basin an overview of the status of the Conservation Innovation Grant submitted for Huer Huero Creek Recharge Basin. Notice of award will be given in September, 2015 with implementation beginning October, 2015.
 2. Member Brown reported the SLO County Planning Commission is holding public hearings for the County-wide Water Conservation Program. Due to the timing of the regularly scheduled PBAC meetings, PBAC would not have a chance to provide input. Therefore, it was suggested PBAC members attend and provide input to SLO County Planning Department staff working on the program.
- II. Populate Conservation strategies:
 - A. Outreach letter distributed to Agricultural Groups.
 1. The group discussed the lack of response and how to proceed. The group chose to solicit input at face-to-face meetings. Two options were considered.
 - a. Consider reaching out to Vineyard Team, IGGPRA, Wine Alliance, and UCCE to come to a Conservation Subcommittee to discuss BMPs and ways to conserve water beyond the scope of the current list.
 - b. Redistribute follow-up letter to ag to encourage more input.
- III. Fireside Chats
 - A. The group discussed holding informal meetings to discuss water conservation issues. Member Engel offered to host the first series, if needed.

Next meeting June 4th.

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
PASO ROBLES CITY HALL

**June 1, 2015
MEETING NOTES**

1. Introductions and Members Present:

Subcommittee attendance:

Subcommittee Members	June, 2015	May, 2015	April, 2015	March, 2015	Feb, 2015	Jan, 2015
Christopher Alakel	X	X	---	---	---	---
Christine Halley	---	---	X	X	X	X
Bob Brown	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paul Clark	X		X	X		X
Willy Cunha	X	X		X	X	X
Jim DeRose						
William Frost	X	X	X	X	X	---
Sue Harvey		X	X	X	X	X
Rob Johnson	X			X	X	
Sue Luft	X	X	X	X	X	X

County/LAFCO staff present – John Diodati, David Church, Mike Hanebutt, Cheryl Cochran

Other BAC members/alternates present - Laurie Gage, Claudia Engel

Others present – Della Barrett, Dick McKinley - Paso Public Works Director

2. Approve May Management Subcommittee Notes: Correction made to meeting attendance to note that Claudia Engel was present and Subcommittee Member Johnson was absent. Subcommittee Member Frost moved to approve May 4, 2015 meeting notes, as amended; seconded by Member Luft; passed unanimously.
3. Update on Ag Offset Ordinance: Mike Hanebutt and Cheryl Cochran summarized the Planning Commission discussions at their study sessions on May 14 and 29. The Planning Commission took into account the letter from the BAC. The next study session on June 4th will include further discussion and tentative motions regarding sunset provisions, “red zone” mapping, and prohibitions for receiving sites within the “red zone”.
4. Water District Formation Steps: David Church and John Diodati discussed the upcoming LAFCO June 18th study session, work on basin boundary descriptions, and discussions with DWR regarding basin

boundary designations. David Church announced that Erik Ekdahl from the State Water Resources Control Board and a representative of the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency will be giving presentations at the LAFCO study session. LAFCO may not hold a meeting in July, August 20th in SLO will be the first hearing on the water district application, and September 17th in North County in the evening will be the second hearing.

5. DWR local assistance program to support local public agencies for SGMA compliance: Member Johnson described their process regarding establishment of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for Monterey County. Member Alakel agreed to look at DWR funding on behalf of Paso City and will report back to the subcommittee. John Diodati stated that DWR has indicated that funding under this program should be available for a while.
6. Discussion of assessment options for district funding: John Diodati stated that on June 2nd the Board of Supervisors is to approve the contract with NBS for the Prop. 218 process. August 11th and 18th are tentative BoS dates regarding approval of the Prop. 218 funding process. John will be at each BAC meeting and Management Subcommittee meeting to discuss funding and the proposed charges for property owners. He will seek input at the July 6th Management Subcommittee meeting regarding reasonable parameters. John explained that the State will use metering, extraction fees and allocations. Their actions are exempt from Prop. 218.
7. Preliminary thoughts and discussion on the Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan: This item was postponed to a future meeting.
8. Basin Export FAQs: The subcommittee has reviewed these FAQs at previous meetings and comments have been incorporated. Subcommittee Member Luft moved to approve the Basin Export FAQs, with one minor correction, forward them to the BAC and recommend that the BAC forward the FAQs to the County for use on pasobasin.org; seconded by Member Frost; passed unanimously.
9. Recommendations to the BAC: See discussion above.
10. Public comments: Questions were asked by the public throughout the meeting.
11. Future Subcommittee Topics: Chair Brown to ask John Neil to attend an upcoming meeting to present their outline of a GSP.

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:00 am. Next meeting of the Management Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday July 6, 2015, at 9:00 am at Paso Robles City Council Chambers located at 1000 Spring Street.

Notes prepared by R. Brown

Groundwater Export within the Paso Robles Basin and outside the County

Frequently Asked Questions

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

There has been considerable public discussion about the possibility of exporting groundwater particularly from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Concern has also been expressed by some that water could be exported out of the County to other State water users. The questions and answers below are intended to address these issues.

What is the total capacity of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin?

The total estimated storage capacity is estimated at 30,500,000 acre-feet (AF).ⁱ The California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") estimates the usable capacity at 1,700,000 AF.ⁱⁱ The amount of usable water of a groundwater basin that can be withdrawn and consumed economically each year for an indefinite period of time is the perennial yield. The December 2014 Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Model Update determined that the perennial yield of the Basin is about 89,600 AFY. Withdrawals cannot exceed the perennial yield without causing depletion of the basin.

Of the total Basin capacity, how much is available to export?

The Model Update shows that water being pumped out of the Basin exceeds replenishment by an average of 2,400 AF per year. This may increase to 26,000 AF per year with even a modest (1%) pace of growth. As long as demand exceeds supply, no surplus groundwater is available to export.

Also, DWR has ranked the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin as the 14th of 515 basins in the State in terms of the severity of its groundwater status. With that priority ranking, the Basin could not reasonably be considered to have excess capacity to export.

Does the County Export Ordinance prohibit the export of water by a willing seller?

The County's Board of Supervisors recently enacted an export ordinance that places a number of requirements and restrictions upon anyone wanting to export water outside the County or outside the Basin. Further, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires the Basin managing agency to demonstrate that the amount of water pumped from the Basin matches its annual recharge. In as much as the Basin has seen deficits of approximately 2,400 AFY (increasing to 5,600 to 26,000 AFY depending on the scenario), it is highly unlikely any governing agency would allow water exporting outside the County or the Basin as this would only compound the problem.

Tell me about water “banking”.

The 2008 Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin Water Banking Feasibility Study examined three potential sites for banking State Water in the Basin, as well as the feasibility to provide in lieu supply to overlayers, thus allowing them to idle their wells. Of the three areas analyzed (Shell Creek/Camatta Creek and Lower San Juan Creek Recharge Area, Creston Area and Salinas River/Hwy 46 Recharge Area), the Creston Area displayed the least potential for recovery or recharge.

The 2008 banking study examined the feasibility of storing supplemental water *in* the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, not exporting groundwater *from* the basin.

Could banked water displace native waters during wet years?

To the extent that banked water occupies space in an aquifer, it could possibly displace natural replenishment that would occur in wet years. A detailed study and analysis of suitable sites for underground storage of water in the Basin would have to be performed before any definitive conclusions or decisions could be made.

What infrastructure would be needed to export water?

Exporting groundwater would require an extraction well field and a pipeline system to direct that supply out of the County. That infrastructure does not exist in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, nor do any of the County’s master water plans to date suggest such a practice. Again, no surplus groundwater is available to contemplate such a step.

Banking State Water in years when it is available for later delivery back into the State Water delivery system was examined in 2008. This is not the same as “exporting groundwater”. Cost estimates for banking that supplemental supply ranged from \$270 million to \$415 million. Before any work could begin, environmental impact reports would have to be prepared, easements across public and private land would have to be negotiated and purchased, and those expected to benefit from the project would have to consent to pay for it as required by state law.

Could banked water be recovered at any time, including during a drought?

Yes.

Could banked water be recovered anywhere from the basin?

Yes, to the extent it is feasible from a geologic perspective.

How might formation of a water district affect groundwater export?

Neither a flood control district nor a water district affects the finding that there is no surplus groundwater to export. Further, San Luis Obispo County has enacted an export ordinance that

only allows water exportation under a narrowly defined set of circumstances. The water district would be required to comply with this ordinance.

Could a landowner or group of owners in the Basin appropriate groundwater and sell it for a profit?

There are four factors when taken together, would make export by any private individual, group or company virtually impossible:

1. Studies and the State have determined that pumping exceeds recharge in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin so there is no excess water to export.
2. State law requires that the Basin be managed *sustainably* under a plan approved by DWR. It does not make sense that proposed exports would be approved by DWR.
3. The County requires that any new pumping be offset, thereby creating a potentially insurmountable hurdle for such a plan.
4. Any landowner who would attempt to export water for sale would become an appropriator which exceeds their right to their reasonable and beneficial use of groundwater pumped from their wells. This would be in conflict with current property rights which limit pumping for this specific reason.

Are there current local ordinances or state laws that address water exportation?

California's water polices, laws and ordinances are interwoven around the concept of moving water from where it is to where it is needed. State water agencies also encourage water banking or storage of rainwater in wet years so that it is available to users in times of drought. The State Water Code permits the storage, banking and exporting of water under circumstances dictated by the local agency or agencies managing surface and groundwater throughout the State. Under SGMA, a basin that is in deficit on average for several decades as is the Paso Robles Basin will certainly not be allowed to export groundwater. The County's recently enacted groundwater export ordinance created a tightly defined and limited set of circumstances where groundwater export would be allowed. Any such proposal would involve an open application process in full view of the public.

Can banked water be recovered regardless whether a basin is in overdraft?

Yes. Absent an Export Ordinance, law clearly establishes that if you store water that would not otherwise find its way into a groundwater basin, you have the right to take that water back out as against anyone who has a water right to take water from that basin.

Today, what entity could decide to export water from the Basin?

Until adoption of the Export Ordinance, San Luis Obispo County had the ability to export water outside of the Basin and the County, subject to CEQA and public input. Since the Export Ordinance has been adopted, the County Public Works Department, guided by their permitting authority, is the review agency of any proposal to export groundwater. If a water district becomes the managing agency for the Basin, it would be required to comply with this ordinance.

Currently is there available above-ground storage in the Basin to hold excess groundwater?

No, the county's three largest reservoirs (Nacimiento, San Antonio, Salinas - Santa Margarita Lake) lie outside the Paso Robles Basin.

The average ag pond only holds about 50 to 70 AF. There are numerous reservoirs currently in use on private lands for such purposes, though they would be unsuitable to use for exportation due to size and lack of any conveyance infrastructure.

Does the exportation of groundwater require that excess groundwater be held in surface storage in order to export it?

No it does not. However, there are no existing surface storage ponds or reservoirs of sufficient size to hold significant amounts of water within the Basin.

Does California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act speak to groundwater exportation?

The Act requires the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin to be managed sustainably. Exporting water out of the Basin to other customers in the State would make it impossible to achieve sustainability. It is reasonable to assume that it could take decades to match pumping demand with supply in light of the declining well levels throughout the Basin. Any attempt to export water out of the Basin under these circumstances would expose the controlling agency of the Basin to be classified by the DWR as a "probationary basin" under the Act.

Does the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act prohibit the exportation of banked or other waters?

No, as other basins within the State may currently be exporting water to other users. However, the Paso Robles Basin has never been utilized for such purposes. The Basin has been classified by the State as high priority which means it does not have excess water to export. DWR must approve the Basin's managing agency's plan so that it is sustainable. It is unrealistic to assume any sustainability plan would be submitted to export water nor would such a plan be approved by the State.

Might the County Flood Control District view groundwater exportation differently than a water district?

In addition to the Paso Robles Basin, the Flood Control District as managed by the Board of Supervisors is responsible for managing 21 other water basins within the County. This places the Supervisors in the position of considering proposals to move water from where it is within the County to those areas that need it. The proposed water district would be responsible for only the Paso Robles Basin and would be charged with sustainably managing the groundwater resource exclusively within its boundaries.

ⁱ Fugro West, Inc. and Cleath and Associates, Final Report, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Study, August 2002, page ES 2.

ⁱⁱ Department of Water Resources, Bulletin 118, Central coast Hydrologic Region Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, February 27, 2004 update, Page 2.

DRAFT

Supplemental Water Subcommittee

Meeting Notes

June 5, 2015

Present: Jeff Briltz, Subcommittee Chair; Courtney Howard, SLO Co PWD; Maria Lorca, Rural Resident; Dan Heimel, WSC, Della Barrett, Anthony Kalvans, Gwen Pelfrey, Greg Grewal, and Dana Merrill.

1. The Committee discussed the draft Potential Supply Options and Points of Delivery for State Water (Tech Memo #3) with Courtney Howard and Dan Heimel. Several minor suggestions were requested to be made to the final draft.
2. No meeting set. It will be set when more information is released from the Supply Options Study. Courtney Howard will forward a revised project time frame to Jeff Briltz after the consultant team meets with County staff on June 10th.

Municipality Water Use Update

ATASCADERO MUTUAL WATER COMPANY PUMPING DATA					
Year	Atascadero Basin Pumping (acre-feet)	Salinas Underflow Pumping (acre-feet)	NWP Atascadero Basin Recharge (acre-feet)	City WWTF Atascadero Basin recharge (acre-feet)	Net Pumping (acre-feet)
2011	1,195	4,162	-	(1,500)	3,857
2012	1,890	3,973	(1,038)	(1,500)	3,325
2013	2,944	3,237	(1,781)	(1,500)	2,900
2014	3,305	1,994	(422)	(1,500)	3,377

Templeton Community Services District Annual Water Production					
Year	SALINAS UNDERFLOW* (ac-ft)	WW RETRIEVAL (ac-ft)	NACI RETRIEVAL (ac-ft)	ATASCADERO BASIN DEEP WELLS (ac-ft)	ANNUAL TOTAL (ac-ft)
2010	611	84	0	739	1433
2011	616	143	0	669	1428
2012	628	233	0	618	1480
2013	682	137	0	773	1592
2014	566	101	193	480	1340

* Permit 8964/20785, License 4829, & Riparian Sources

City of Paso Robles

The City prioritizes pumping from the Salinas River up to its permitted allotment of 4,600 acre-feet per year (AFY). During periods of drought when native underflow diminishes, the City may have to rely more on the deep basin. However, when the Nacimiento Water Project is in operation, the City can replace native underflow with lake water.

Because the pipeline was down in 2014, river pumping was the lowest it has been in recent years. For 2015, the City's river wells are currently operating at near full capacity because the City is able to recharge Nacimiento water into the river at a rate of 15.5 acre-feet/day.

Wastewater plant – 3,350 AFY

Municipality Water Use Update

Year 2014

River (Atascadero Sub Basin) - 2290 AF (pipeline down; relied more on the Basin)

River (Estrella Sub Area) – 482 AF

Basin (Estrella Sub Area) – 3496 AF

Year 2013

River/Naci (Atascadero Sub Basin) – 3238 AF

River (Estrella Sub Area) – 505 AF

Basin (Estrella Sub Area) – 3257 AF

Year 2012

River (Atascadero Sub Basin) – 3371 AF

River (Estrella Sub Area) – 443 AF

Basin (Estrella Sub Area) – 2879 AF

Year 2011

River (Atascadero Sub Basin) – 3603 AF

River (Estrella Sub Area) – 466 AF

Basin (Estrella Sub Area) – 2327 AF

County Biennial Resource Summary Report (note July – June totals, not calendar year)

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/RMS/2012-2014+Public+Hearing+Draft/II_Water+Resources+and+Supply.pdf

See pages 66 and 68

TO: Paso Basin Advisory Committee

FROM: Courtney Howard, Water Resources Engineer

DATE: June 18, 2015

SUBJECT: Agenda Item # 7: Suggested Future Agenda Items

The following list was developed to help members of the PBAC, the public, and County staff track requests for future PBAC agenda items. This list contains some of the potential items that have been requested by PBAC members, by the public, or by County staff. *Near-Term Items* are expected to come to the PBAC within several months, whereas *Long-Term Items* are expected to take longer. Items under the heading of “*Ongoing Updates*” reflect ongoing efforts/programs that staff or others would provide updates on as appropriate.

Near-Term Items

- Potential new uses of Lake Nacimiento water in the Basin
- Potential for development of catchment basins for storm water
- Proposition 1 opportunities
- Percolation areas in the groundwater basin
- Basin hydrogeology overview

Long-Term Items

- Development of recommendations for a more robust monitoring and reporting program

Ongoing Updates (as needed)

- Reservoir Conditions
- Water District Legislation (AB 2453)
- Ordinances (Export, Water Waste, Net Water Neutral Development)
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- Shandon State Water Turnout Project progress
- Paso Robles Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects progress
- Subcommittee Reports
- Member Reports
- Water Surface Elevation Trends (annually after Spring measurements)