

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS FOR MEASURE C-17
FORMATION OF THE ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON WATER DISTRICT**

The proposed Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPC Water District) is approximately 37,000 acres. The EPC Water District is generally around the City of Paso Robles and lies east of Highway 101 and Atascadero, and the communities of San Miguel, Templeton and Creston. To the north the EPC Water District boundary is the Monterey-San Luis Obispo County line. The EPC Water District's service area boundary includes the rural, unincorporated properties in San Luis Obispo County that overlie a portion of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

The purpose of the EPC Water District is to provide for the sustainable management of portions of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The responsibilities of the EPC Water District would include compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) within its boundaries. SGMA requires the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for basins identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as medium and high-priority basins. If the EPC Water District is not formed, the County would be responsible for SGMA compliance for those properties. If the EPC Water District is formed it would request to be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

The formation process and powers of the proposed District are described in the San Luis Obispo LAFCO staff report prepared for the April 6, 2017 meeting. For the District to be formed a majority of the landowner-voters who submit ballots and own a majority of the acreage within the boundary must approve the formation. Also, the EPC Water District must complete the assessment process subject to Proposition 218 procedures to fund the District within one year of being formed. The EPC Water District's five-member landowner Board of Directors shall be elected by landowners based on acreage owned within the boundary. The EPC Water District is not allowed to export, or transfer water outside of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Activation of other powers will require LAFCO approval. Only consenting landowners can become part of the District. Other conditions of approval were adopted as part of the formation of the EPC Water District and are found in the Resolution adopted by LAFCO.

A "yes" vote on this measure requires the acreage of an individual property to be counted in favor of forming the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District. A "no" vote on this measure requires the acreage to be counted against forming the EPC Water District. A majority of the "yes" votes cast by the landowner-voters who own a majority of the acreage within the boundary is needed to approve the formation. If a majority of "no" votes who own a majority of the acreage in the boundary are cast, the EPC Water District would not be formed.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure C-17. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the County Elections Office at 805-781-5228 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.



by/David A. Church, Executive Officer
San Luis Obispo LAFCO