

# Paso Basin Town Hall

Monday, December 16, 2024  
5:30 - 8:30 PM



# Town Hall Agenda

**5:30 PM** Doors Open

**5:55 PM** Town Hall Overview

**6:00 PM** Chair Opening Remarks

**6:05 PM** Presentation: Paso Basin Actions

**6:30-8:30 PM** Breakout Discussions

# Welcome to the Town Hall!

- Order of the day.
- Emergency escape routes.
- Spanish translation available
- Bathrooms
- Outdoor space available (with heaters)
- Enjoy food and beverages throughout event.
- Shared expectations:
  - Be respectful and courteous of all.
  - Actively share the airtime with others here today.
  - Move around and learn about different efforts.
  - Please be mindful of room acoustics (use “inside voice”).
  - Know that today is not your only or last opportunity to give input on any effort.

# Comments, Suggestions and Complaints

- Public comments are highly encouraged and will assist the GSAs as they make important water management decisions to implement the basin GSP
- How to Make Public Comment?
  - Use the public comment forms located at each breakout area and submit at the public comment table
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- How Will Public Comments be Used?
  - All meeting materials, including public comments will be included in the public packet at a subsequent PBCC meeting
  - GSAs will review comments and consider feedback as they implement the GSP

# Opening Remarks

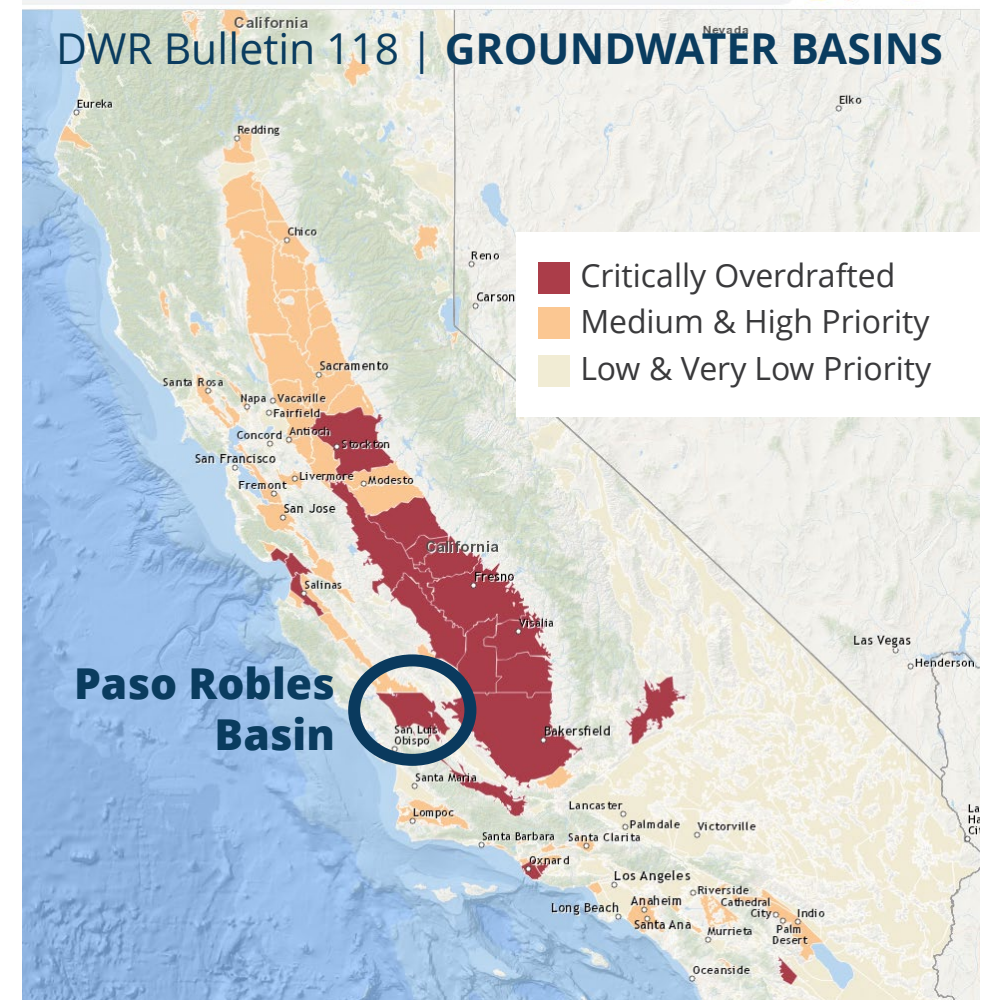
PBCC Chair Turrentine

Paso Basin Cooperative Committee  
December 16, 2024



# SGMA Overview

- In 2014 legislation was passed known as SGMA
- SGMA requires medium- and high-priority basins to become “sustainable” by 2040
- GSAs were formed covering groundwater basins and developed GSPs to outline the path to sustainability
- DWR’s Bulletin 118 sets the boundaries and prioritization for groundwater basins
- SGMA emphasis “local control” in determining sustainability and developing GSPs, but requires initial approval by DWR, annual review on progress, and 5-year assessments of GSPs



# GSA / GSP Timeline

**2014:** SGMA adopted by Legislature

**2016-2017:** 4 GSAs formed in the Basin governed by an MOA

**Jan 2020:** GSP submitted to DWR

**Jan 2022:** DWR Initial Review of GSP “Incomplete”

**Jul 2022:** Amended GSP submitted to DWR

**Mar 2023:** GSP recommended “approved” with suggested corrective changes

**Sep 2023:** Estrella-El Pomar-Creston (EPC) Water District (GSA) Approved by DWR

**Jan 2025:** GSP 5-yr Evaluation due (May result in GSP Update)

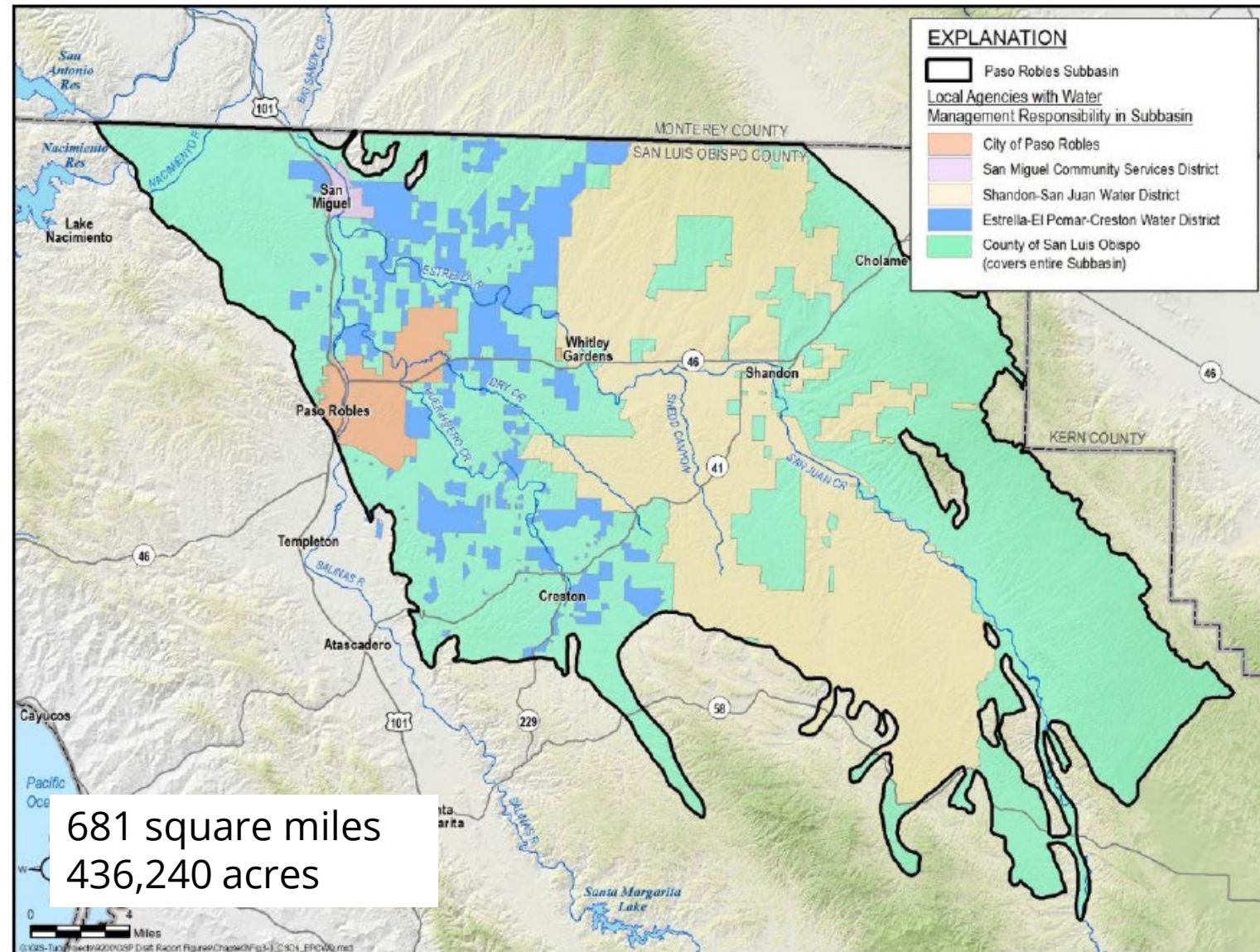
**Annually:** Water Year Annual Reports on basin conditions and GSP implementation





# Paso Basin Cooperative Committee

- SLO County GSA
- City of Paso Robles GSA
- San Miguel CSD GSA
- Shandon-Jan Juan GSA
- Estrella-El Pomar-Creston (EPC) Water District (GSA Approved by DWR on September 20, 2023)





# Overview of Breakout Discussions

1. GSP 5-Year Periodic Evaluation
2. Rates to Fund GSP Implementation
3. Governance Structure
4. Multi Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program
5. Expanded Groundwater Monitoring Network
6. Ag Pumping Estimation Project
7. Supplemental Water Supply Projects
8. Dry Well Reporting
9. Comments and Suggestions

# 1. GSP 5-Year Periodic Evaluation

## Project Description

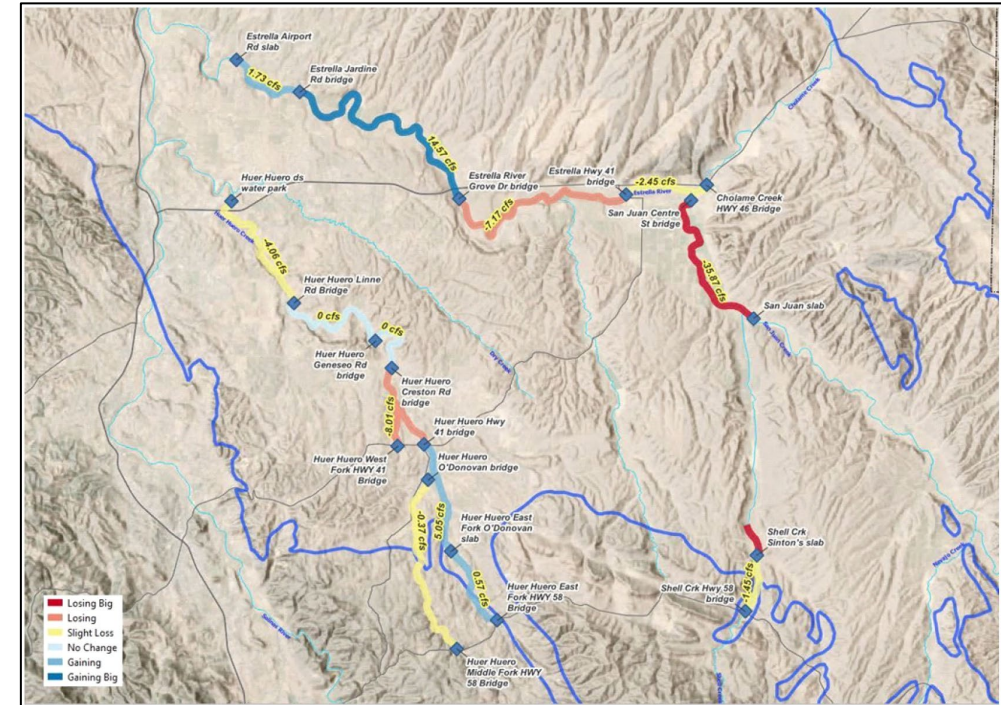
Details numerous significant actions undertaken by the PBCC since GSP adoption to demonstrate progress toward sustainability in the Subbasin within the 20-year Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation time frame.

## Progress Update

Technical Studies	Projects & Management Actions
El Pomar Junction HCM	Expansion of Monitoring Networks
Airborne Electromagnetic Geophysics	City of Paso Robles & San Miguel CSD Recycled Water Projects
Synoptic Streamflow	Blended Water Project
Groundwater Model Review	MILR Program
State Water Supply Feasibility Study	Drinking Well Impact Mitigation Program

## Next Steps

- November 15 to December 20, 2024 – Public Review & Comment Period
- January 30, 2025 – Finalize and Submit to CA DWR



## 2. Rates to Fund GSP Implementation

### Project Description

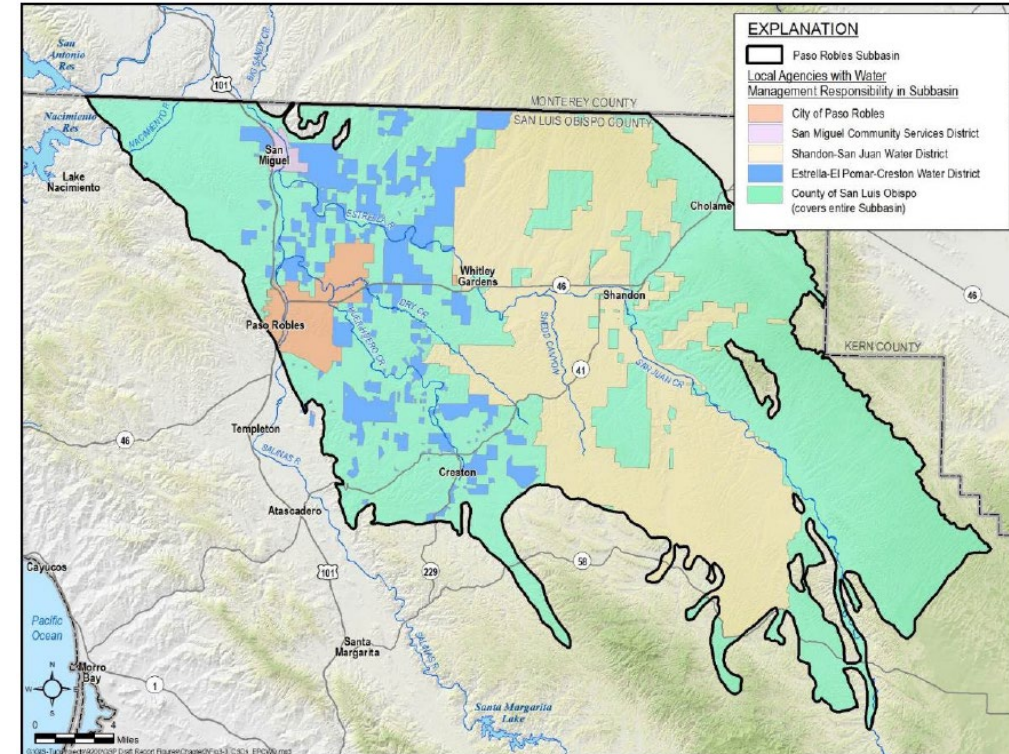
The PBCC is working to develop a fee program to fund the cost of Paso Basin GSP implementation. This process involves evaluation of a five-year budget plan, a cost-of-service analysis, and community outreach.

### Progress Update

- GSA staff have developed several budget options which will be evaluated by the PBCC

### Next Steps

- January 22, 2025 – Preliminary rate presentation to PBCC





# 3. Governance Structure



## Project Description

Develop a long-term governance structure for the Paso Robles basin, currently basin governed by MOA (short-term solution).

## Progress Update

- JPA drafted that GSAs are considering

## Next Steps

- Early-2025 – Finalize the JPA and form new entity to implement GSP

# 4. Multi Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program

## Project Description

Path to reduce groundwater pumping through voluntary repurposing of irrigated land to less water-intensive uses.

## Progress Update

- Outreach
- Collecting spatial data and information
- Developing criteria for identifying eligible irrigated properties that can be enrolled in the program

## Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback into program framework
- Perform spatial analysis to prioritize areas of basin
- Develop funding mechanism, CEQA requirements, and program rules and regulations
- Education



# 5. Expanded Groundwater Monitoring Network

## Project Description

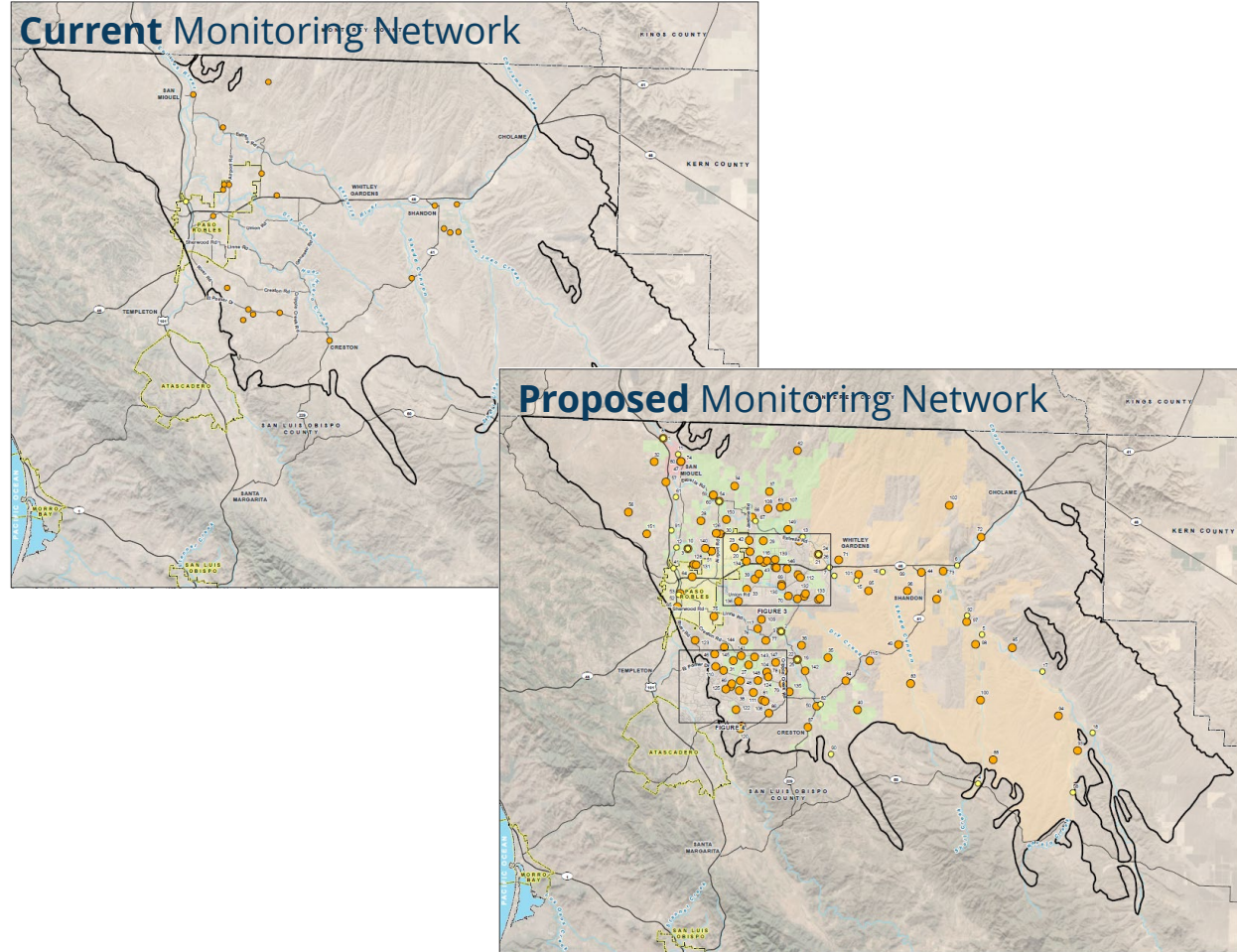
Expanding existing 23-well representative monitoring network to ~150 wells, including 8 new shallow, alluvial wells and three, new dedicated monitoring wells (DWR TSS).

## Progress Update

- Performing field visits to secure landowner permission to join the network
- Finalizing permitting/CEQA for alluvial wells

## Next Steps

- Jan 2025 – Finalize adding existing wells to monitoring network
- Mid-2025 – Finalize install of alluvial wells and install of transducers in select monitoring wells





# 6. Ag Pumping Estimation Project

## Project Description

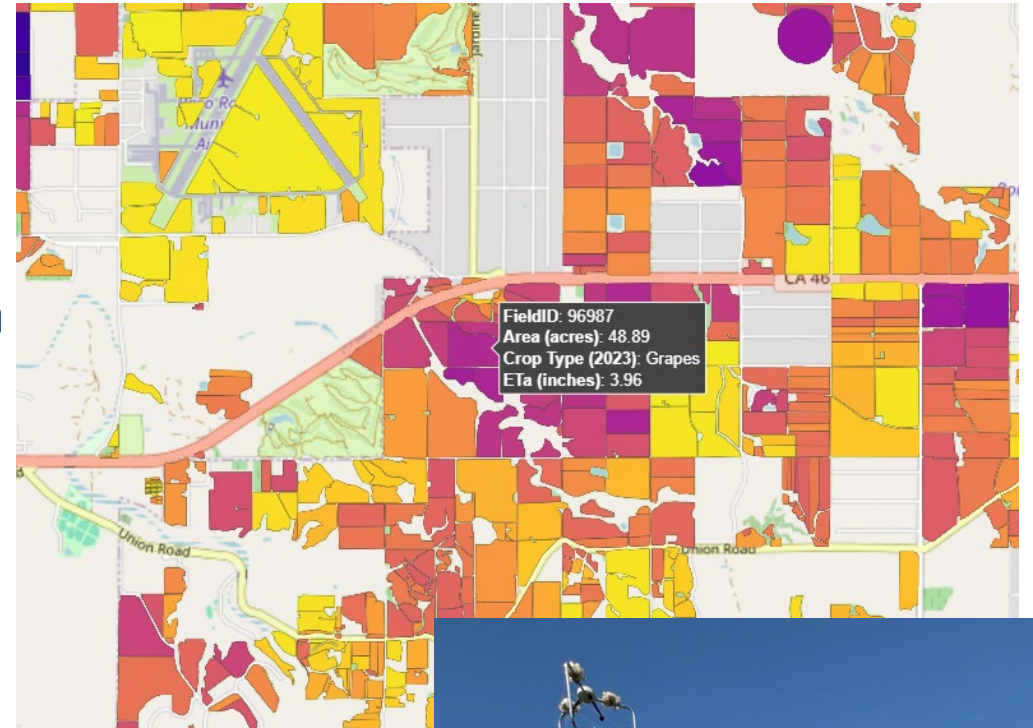
Ag pumping estimated by the consumption of extracted groundwater (i.e. evapotranspiration (ET)) via ground-truthed models and will consider precipitation and applied water contributions

## Progress Update

- Ground-truthing stations have been installed since August 2024 and resulted in monthly ET values by field
- Current and historical field-by-field crop mapping for the past 5 years is being used to determine block by block and crop ET

## Next Steps

- ET to be provided on a monthly basis



# 7. Supplemental Water Supply Projects | SWP Study

## Project Description

Assess the feasibility of providing supplemental State Water Project supply to Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin

## Progress Update

- Assessed Supply and Conveyance Availability
- Developed Alternative Project Configurations
- Preliminary Cost Estimates for Project Features

## Next Steps

- February 2025 – Draft Report
- March 2025 – Final Engineering Report





# 7. Supplemental Water Supply Projects | Blended Water Supply

## Project Description

Preliminary engineering study to consider blending Nacimiento surface water with Paso Robles recycled water to a quality suitable for agricultural irrigation in lieu of groundwater.

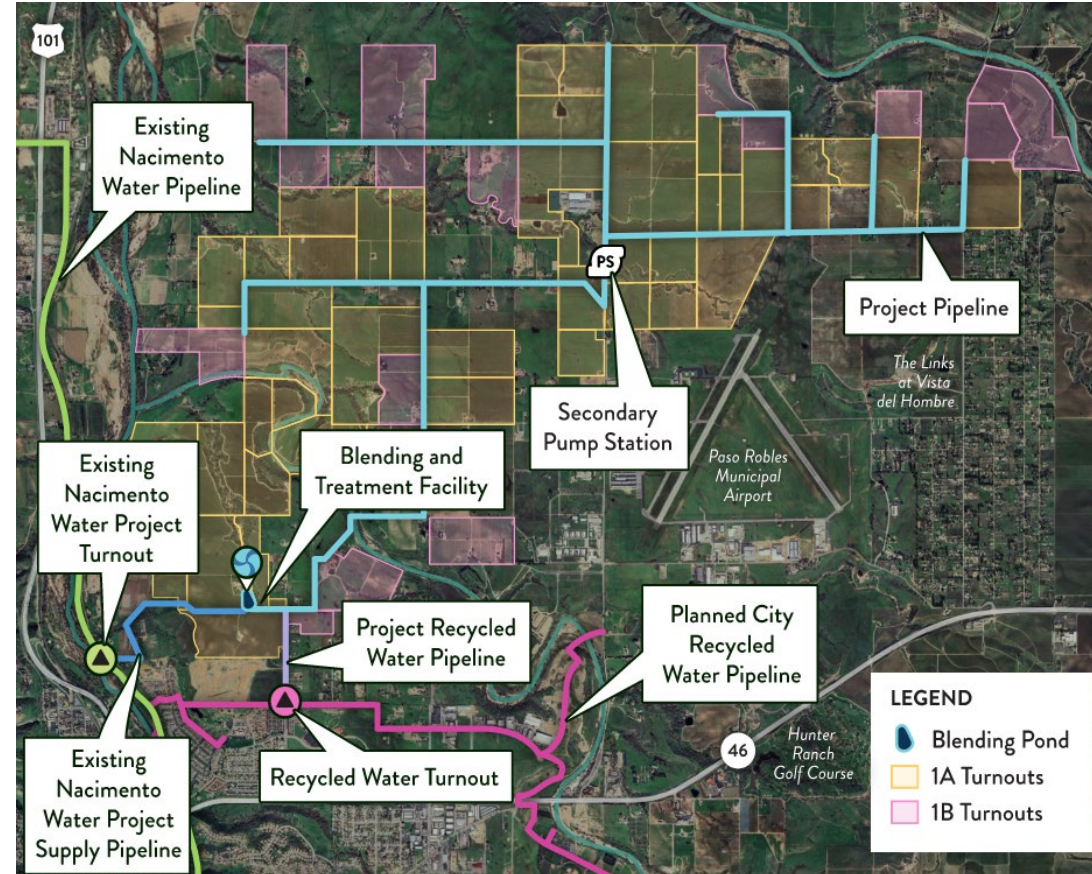
## Progress Update

- Project feasibility analysis started in November 2023
- Draft Preliminary Engineering Report reviewed by PBCC staff October and November 2024

## Next Steps

- December 2024 – Preliminary Engineering Report available to public for review

Map of Recommended Project





# 8. Dry Well Reporting

## Project Description

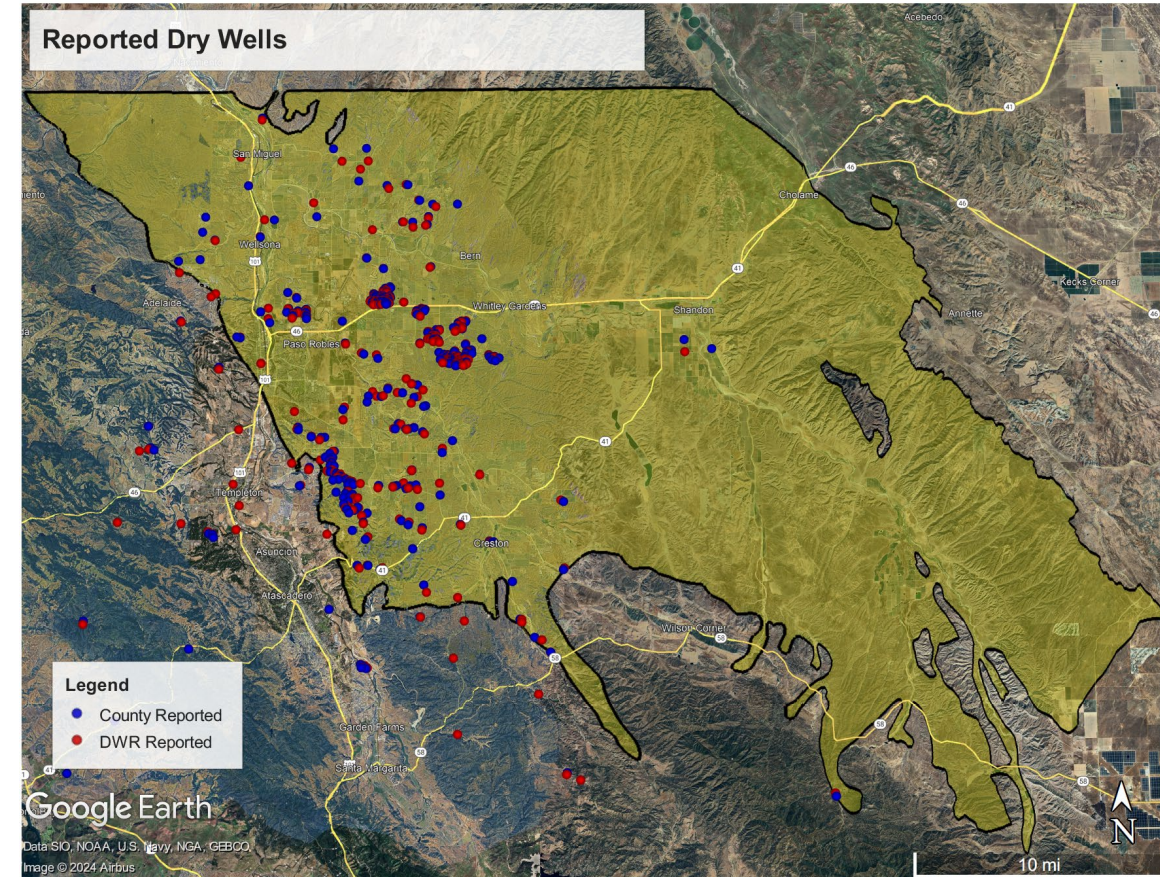
Develop a mechanism to proactively monitor and protect drinking water wells and mitigate impacts should they occur.

## Progress Update

- Staff is reviewing DWR guidance and other GSA programs.

## Next Steps

- Mid-2025 – Finalize program design



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# Visit a Table

And enjoy food and beverages along the way!



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**Paso Basin Cooperative Committee**  
**December 16, 2024**



# Thank you!

For more information or to join your GSAs email list,  
visit:

ADD INFO OR QR CODE to all websites?

