

**Applicant Name: County of San Luis Obispo**  
**Basin Name: Salinas Valley – Paso Robles Area (3-004.06)**

**Table 1 – Spending Plan**

Rank	Name	Estimated Score	COD SJV Component Requirement	Benefactors	Cost	Justification
1	GRANT ADMINISTRATION	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 250,000	As required under the Basin’s current Grant Agreement, this task will involve the preparation of reimbursement request packages containing invoices and quarterly progress reports. This task is required for successful grant implementation.
2	RECYCLED WATER PROJECT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Supply – Salinas Segment</li> <li>• San Miguel CSD Recycled Water Supply</li> </ul>	26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 4,500,000	<p>1.) The City of Paso Robles has a master plan to distribute tertiary-quality recycled water currently being produced at the City's WWTP to east Paso Robles, where it may be safely used for irrigation of City parks, golf courses, and vineyards. This direct use of recycled water will reduce the need to pump groundwater from the Basin and further improve the sustainability of the City's water supply and provide a supplemental water supply to irrigators in the basin that will further offset groundwater pumping. The City is nearing completion of the design of a major distribution system to deliver recycled water to east Paso Robles. When completed, the distribution system project will be capable of delivering up to 4,900 AFY of disinfected tertiary effluent. Of this amount, approximately 2,000 AFY is currently available for use by agricultural irrigators in-lieu of groundwater extraction, in the central portion of the basin near and inside the City of Paso Robles. Water that is not used in lieu of groundwater pumping will be discharged to Huer Huer Creek with the potential for additional recharge benefits. The component of the project to be funded in conjunction with the SGM GSP Implementation Grant would include the infrastructure required to convey the treated effluent supply from the City WWTF and will include a critical segment of the pipeline infrastructure to provide for delivering across the Salinas River to a point of</p>

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					<p>connection to a segment of recycled water line the City has already constructed. These initial pipeline segments will facilitate a new turn-out for future extension of the "purple-pipe" distribution system to irrigation users including vineyards, municipal parks, golf courses, residential developments, and the local community college.</p> <p>2.) The San Miguel Community Services District (CSD) is currently in the final design and permitting phases for a major upgrade to their wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) which will allow the District to produce effluent which meets California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 criteria for disinfected secondary recycled water for irrigation use by vineyards. The WWTF upgrade construction phase is scheduled to be completed in 2023. The District has been in preliminary discussions with a group of agricultural customers in close proximity to the WWTF that are interested in taking delivery of the treated effluent to be used for vineyard irrigation in-lieu of pumping groundwater from the Basin. The project could provide between 200 and 450 AFY of in-lieu water supplies. The component of the project to be funded in conjunction with the SGM GSP Implementation Grant would include the infrastructure required to convey the treated effluent supply from the WWTF to the vineyard and would include a new recycled water pumping station, pipeline, and turn-out infrastructure to provide for delivering water to the vineyard.</p>
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3	<p>ADDRESS GSP DATA GAPS          – HIGH PRIORITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand and Improve Existing Basin Monitoring Network</li> <li>• Supplemental Hydrogeologic Investigation(s)</li> <li>• Install New MWs, Stream Gages, Climatologic Stations</li> </ul>	25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 1,400,000	<p>1.) The SGMA regulations require a sufficient spatial coverage and density of monitoring wells to characterize the groundwater table or potentiometric surface for each principal aquifer, which in this Basin includes the Paso Robles Formation aquifer and the alluvial aquifers associated with the Salinas River and major perennial streams. The Basin is approximately 682 square miles in area, and the current groundwater level monitoring network includes 22 wells in the Paso Robles Formation Aquifer, which equates to approximately 3 wells per 100 square miles for well density in the Paso Robles Formation. The proposed strategy for adding monitoring wells and representative monitoring sites (RMS) to the monitoring network will be to first incorporate existing wells to the extent possible.</p> <p>2.) New monitoring wells will be drilled in data gap areas where existing wells do not exist or areas where access to existing wells could not be secured. The GSAs will obtain required permits and access agreements before drilling new wells. In addition to new monitoring wells, the GSAs will install new stream gages and climatologic stations to allow for an enhanced understanding of the interaction between surface waters and groundwater, both in the alluvial and Paso Robles Formation aquifers. Additional climatologic stations will provide valuable information regarding crop water usage and evapotranspiration which will be used in future groundwater extraction calculations.</p> <p>3.) The goal of the supplemental hydrogeologic investigations will be to improve our understanding of the hydrogeologic conceptual model of the Basin to support an equitable decision-making process and adaptive management of the programs and actions designed to achieve sustainability. The supplemental hydrogeologic investigations will be conducted in tandem with improving the</p>
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						groundwater level monitoring network. The investigation will rely on existing information first and conduct additional investigations, as deemed appropriate by the GSAs, to address targeted data gaps.
4	<p>HIGH PRIORITY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well verification and registration program</li> <li>• Groundwater extraction measurement program</li> <li>• Well interference mitigation program</li> <li>• Multi-benefit land repurposing program</li> </ul>	23	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 800,000	<p>1.) The Well Verification and Registration Program will ensure that the GSA's information regarding the location and spatial distribution of groundwater use is correct and will help fill data gaps about groundwater users and well owners in the basin. Well registration is intended to establish a relatively accurate count of all the active wells in the Basin. If the information obtained through the well registration program indicates that there is a potential for adverse impacts to the future water supply adequacy or water quality of domestic and/or community drinking water supply wells, then the GSA can elect to develop and implement a Drinking Water Well Impact Mitigation Program</p> <p>2.) The GSAs will also require all non-de minimis groundwater pumpers to report extractions annually and use a water-measuring method satisfactory to the GSAs in accordance with Water Code § 10725.8. Extraction measurements by private well owners within the Basin have not been heretofore required. Extractions from these wells, which are used primarily for irrigated agricultural operations, will be required to be metered and extractions reported.</p> <p>3.) The GSAs also intend to develop and implement a Drinking Well Impact Mitigation Program to provide drinking water wells, and especially domestic well users, protection from</p>

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						<p>the effects of agricultural pumping, with specific emphasis on protecting those areas within the Basin where there are concentrations of shallow domestic wells. Recent experience has demonstrated that some of these areas have experienced several wells going dry and domestic water supply disruptions.</p> <p>4.) The GSAs will also develop and implement a voluntary multi-benefit land repurposing program that will facilitate the conversion of high-water use irrigated agricultural land to low water use agriculture use or open space, public land, or other land uses on a voluntary basis. The GSAs propose to develop and implement programs that will permit both voluntary temporary and long-term or permanent fallowing and conversion to other land uses. An important consideration in developing the voluntary multi-benefit land repurposing programs will be to include protections of water rights for the overlying landowners that choose to temporarily repurpose irrigated lands.</p>
5	<p>SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY / ENGINEERING STUDIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nacimiento Lake supplemental supply projects</li> <li>• State Water Project (SWP) supplemental supply projects</li> <li>• Santa Margarita Lake supplemental supply projects</li> <li>• Well Impact Mitigation and Alternative Water Supply Projects</li> </ul>	22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 650,000	<p>1.) The Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) consists of 45 miles of pipeline that conveys raw water from Lake Nacimiento in the northern portion of San Luis Obispo County to communities within San Luis Obispo County. Monterey County Water Resource Agency (MCWRA) manages and operates Lake Nacimiento and San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOCFCWD) has an entitlement of 17,500 AFY through a Master Water Agreement with MCWRA negotiated in 1959. Any surplus NWP water must be obtained from the existing participants through a "turn back pool" arrangement. Several potential projects that considered the use of Lake Nacimiento water were identified in the GSP. One project that has gained local support in the Basin has been proposed by a consortium of vineyard growers which have operations in the central portion of the Basin. The group of private growers is</p>

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						<p>considering plans to use a blended supply of recycled water from the City of Paso Robles and a supply from the NWP to produce a irrigation supply water that has desirable water quality properties. The proposed project would provide funding for an engineering study to assess the feasibility of the proposed project, perform design alternatives analyses and develop recommendations for the final project design criteria, including pipeline alignments, and design criteria for the proposed blending facility and pump station(s).</p> <p>2.) A study performed on behalf of the Central Coast Water Authority (2021) concluded that SLOFCWCD has adequate SWP water supplies to meet its current Participant and simulated additional demands in all years under historic hydrologic patterns. The study further recommended that SLOFCWCD explore alternative management of SLOFCWCD's uncontracted SWP Table A. Available options include entering into contracts with other entities for purposes such as groundwater basin supply augmentation, among others. Since a supplemental supply for groundwater basins is typically used to maintain long term sustainability, the SWP supplemental deliveries would not necessarily be needed in every year. Given the considerably higher value of SWP supplies through sales in drier years, an alternative approach for supplemental groundwater basin supply would be to provide higher amounts of water deliveries in wetter years and lower amounts (or none at all) in drier years. An intermittent SWP supply approach would likely be more cost effective for SWP supplies, but there would be a tradeoff from increased turnout and delivery facility costs for higher capacity deliveries and lower use factors. The proposed project would provide funding for an engineering study to assess the feasibility using unallocated SLOFCWCD SWP supplies, and other supplemental water supplies as may become</p>
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						<p>available, for the benefit of the Basin to help in achieving sustainability.</p> <p>3.) SLOFCWCD operates the Salinas Dam to provide water to the City of San Luis Obispo. The storage capacity of the lake is 23,843 AF; however, the City has existing water rights of 45,000 AF of storage. The SLOFCWCD is leading a project to transfer ownership of the Dam from the Army Corp of Engineers to the SLOFCWCD in order to pursue opportunities to optimize its use and provide additional supplies to beneficiaries. This involves retrofitting the dam and expanding the storage capacity by installing gates along the spillway in order to retain flood flow/stormwater for beneficial use. There may be opportunities to use the water from the expanded and/or reoperated reservoir to benefit the Basin. One possibility would be to schedule summer releases from the storage to the Salinas River, which would benefit the Basin by recharging the basin through the Salinas River. Another way this project might indirectly benefit the Basin is if the City of San Luis Obispo were to use more of their Salinas River water allocation, thereby freeing up the NWP water for purchase by the GSAs. The proposed project would provide funding for identifying and evaluating the options and determining the best way to stabilize groundwater levels and address surface water depletion utilizing any available Salinas River flood flow/stormwater provided by the SLOFCWCD project.</p>
6	<p>MEDIUM PRIORITY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pumping fee program</li> <li>• Groundwater pumping allocation program</li> </ul>	21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 700,000	<p>The GSP identified the activities included in this Project as critical for achieving sustainability within the Basin and for compliance with the provisions of SGMA. As part of the Project review process, the Project Review Panel discussed each of these activities in detail and determined that of the Management Actions being considered, the Project proposed herein will provide significant benefit to the communities and rural residents, agricultural community, the environment, and the overall</p>

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						<p>health of the Basin. This Project is considered very feasible, cost effective, and critically important. Although extremely important and feasible, the Project Review Panel determined that this Project should be of a lower priority to Project #3 and will be implemented at such time that funding is available, either from future grant funding opportunities or as funding from the GSAs (or other sources) becomes available.</p> <p>1.) The GSAs intend to develop and implement a regulatory program to equitably allocate a groundwater Base Pumping Fee and Allocation (BPA). Once the program is implemented, individual non-de minimis pumper’s will be provided an annual groundwater BPA which may be based on historically used quantities of water. Alternatively, the GSAs may define the BPA, based on acreage and crop type. Under whatever allocation structure is adopted, the GSAs anticipate that the BPAs for each regulated pumper will be ramped down over time to bring pumping in the Basin within its sustainable yield by 2040. As described in SGMA, any limitation on extractions by the GSAs “shall not be construed to be a final determination of rights to extract groundwater from the basin or any portion of the basin” (Water Code § 10726.4(a)(2)). With respect to those pumpers that are not anticipated to be subject to the fee, the GSAs plan to develop a program pursuant to which such pumpers will be required to self-certify that they only pump for domestic and / or non-commercial purposes.</p>
7	<p>GROUNDWATER BASIN RECHARGE TECHNICAL / ENGINEERING STUDIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodplain expansion / enhancement</li> <li>• Distributed stormwater collection and managed aquifer recharge (DSC-MAR)</li> </ul>	16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 400,000	<p>The GSP identified the activities included in this Project as extremely valuable for achieving sustainability within the Basin and for compliance with the provisions of SGMA. As part of the Project review process, the Project Review Panel discussed each of these activities in detail and determined that this Project is considered feasible, cost effective, and important. The Project Review Panel considered this Project, and the activities</p>



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						<p>included therein, should be a lesser priority than the higher scored projects and should be considered in the future after other projects and management actions are implemented. These Project activities may also be considered by other agencies and private entities on a localized or area-specific scale, rather than Basin-wide.</p> <p>1.) The proposed activity would provide funding for an engineering study to assess the feasibility of the developing floodplain / stream channel modifications, perform design alternatives analyses and develop recommendations for the final project design criteria for those sites that are deemed potentially viable for floodplain / stream channel modifications which would result in riparian corridor enhancements, groundwater recharge, and/or in-channel storage of excess floodwater and / or supplemental water for subsequent irrigation use in-lieu of groundwater pumping from the Basin.</p> <p>2.) DSW-MAR is a landscape management strategy that can help to reduce the storage deficit and maintain long-term water supply reliability. DSW-MAR targets relatively small drainage areas (generally 100 to 1,000 acres) from which stormwater runoff can be collected to infiltrate 100 to 300 AF of water per year, per individual basin. Infiltration can be accomplished in surface basins, typically having an area of 1 to 5 acres, or potentially through flooding of agricultural fields or flood plains, use of drywells, or other strategies. The proposed activity would include the completion of an engineering study to identify the optimal number and location of a series of DSW-MAR facilities, based on hydrogeologic and watershed conditions.</p>
8	<p>ADDRESS DATA GAPS – MEDIUM PRIORITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update GSP hydrogeologic model</li> </ul>	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 250,000	<p>The GSP identified numerous data gaps and subsequent notification by DWR that the GSP was deemed "Incomplete" was determined to be largely due to significant data gaps, especially regarding the potential for risk to</p>

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						interconnected surface water depletions from pumping and unknowns regarding adverse impacts to shallow domestic wells. The GSA's recognize that at some point in the future it will be necessary to update and recalibrate, or possibly replace the Basin hydrogeologic model. The Project Review Panel determined that this Project is work that should be delayed until such time that the data gaps to be addressed in conjunction with Project #2 are filled and the impacts from the implementation of the higher ranked Projects are assessed.
9	SGMA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribe(s) <input type="checkbox"/> URC(s) <input type="checkbox"/> SDAC(s)	\$ 1,050,000	The GSAs recognize that there are ongoing costs that must be incurred to maintain compliance with the requirements of SGMA, including costs associated with the preparation of GSP Annual Reports, Bi-Annual monitoring of Basin Conditions, and preparing regular updates of the GSP as conditions in the Basin dictate. The Project Review Panel determined that the costs associated with the activities in this Project were “part of doing business” as a GSA and that the grant funds would provide more benefit to the Basin and move the Basin toward sustainability if the higher ranked projects were implemented.
<b>Total Cost:</b>					<b>\$10,000,000</b>	

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**Grant Proposal Summary Budget**

**TABLE 2 – GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY BUDGET**

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Requested Grant Amount</b>
Component 1: GRANT ADMINISTRATION	\$250,000
Component 2: RECYCLED WATER PROJECT	\$4,500,000
Component 3: ADDRESS GSP DATA GAPS – HIGH PRIORITY	\$1,400,000
Component 4: HIGH PRIORITY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	\$800,000
Component 5: SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY FEASIBILITY / ENGINEERING STUDIES	\$650,000
Component 6: MEDIUM PRIORITY MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	\$700,000
Component 7: GROUNDWATER BASIN RECHARGE TECHNICAL / ENGINEERING STUDIES	\$400,000
Component 8: ADDRESS DATA GAPS – MEDIUM PRIORITY	\$250,000
Component 9: SGMA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES	\$1,050,000
Grand Total <i>Sum rows (1) through (n) for each column</i>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

**Grant Proposal Summary Schedule**

**TABLE 3B – GRANT PROPOSAL SCHEDULE**

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<b>Component 1: Grant Administration</b>	<b>6/1/2022</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 2: Recycled Water Project</b>	<b>6/1/2022</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 3: Address GSP Data Gaps – High Priority</b>	<b>6/1/2022</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 4: High Priority Management Actions</b>	<b>6/1/2022</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 5: Supplemental Water Supply Feasibility / Engineering Studies</b>	<b>6/1/2022</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 6: Medium Priority Management Actions</b>	<b>7/1/2023</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 7: Groundwater Basin Recharge Technical / Engineering Studies</b>	<b>7/1/2023</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 8: Address Data Gaps – Medium Priority</b>	<b>7/1/2023</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>
<b>Component 9: SGMA Compliance Activities</b>	<b>12/17/2021</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>