



Sue Luft Chairperson	Anthony Kalvans Vice Chairperson	Courtney Howard Secretary
Room 206, County Government Center San Luis Obispo CA 93401		PH (805) 781-1016 FAX (805) 788-2182

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- John Neil
Atascadero MWC
- Kris Beal
Central Coast Vineyard Team
- Vacant
City of Atascadero
- Christopher Alakel
City of Paso Robles
- John Ashbaugh
City of San Luis Obispo
- Vacant
County of Monterey (Resource Management Agency)
- Robert Johnson
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Steve Sinton
Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR)
- Patricia Wilmore
Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance
- Anthony Kalvans
San Miguel CSD
- Susan Howard
Shandon CSA 16
- Kurt Bollinger
SLO County Cattlemen's Association
- Paul Clark
SLO County Farm Bureau
- Jeff Brittz
Templeton CSD
- Devin Best
Upper Salinas – Las Tablas RCD
- AT-LARGE**
- Dana Merrill
Viticulture Agriculturalist At-Large
- Bill Spencer
Non-Viticulture Irrigated Crop Agriculturalist At-Large
- Sue Harvey
Environmental At-Large
- Sue Luft
Rural Resident At-Large
- Claudia Engel
Rural Resident At-Large
- Edward C. Redig
Rural Resident At-Large
- William Frost
Rural Resident At-Large
- George Tracy
Rural Resident At-Large
- Randy Diffenbaugh
Rural Resident At-Large District 1
- Erin Faulkner
Rural Resident At-Large District 5
- Larry Werner
Undesignated At Large

April 16, 2015

Chairperson Debbie Arnold
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
1055 Monterey St., D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: MCWRA Interlake Tunnel Project

Dear Chairperson Arnold and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee is concerned the proposed Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) Interlake Tunnel project connecting the Nacimiento Reservoir with the San Antonio Reservoir could impact the reliability of San Luis Obispo County's water entitlement. We hereby request and advise that a review of this project by San Luis Obispo County regarding the impacts and opportunities it could have on all San Luis Obispo County Nacimiento water project participants be undertaken.

The proposed Interlake Tunnel project consists of a 12,000 foot long, 10 foot diameter, gravity flow tunnel from the Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir with spillway modifications at San Antonio to increase water storage. The Interlake Tunnel is reported to be designed to divert water from the Nacimiento Reservoir to San Antonio Reservoir that would have otherwise been spilled at Nacimiento Dam during high rainfall years. The Nacimiento River basin produces nearly three times the average annual flow compared to the San Antonio River basin, therefore, capturing high Nacimiento River flows and diverting those flows to San Antonio Reservoir increases the overall storage capacity of the reservoir system.

We believe the idea behind the Interlake Tunnel is good as it could save water that would spill over the Nacimiento Dam and flow to the ocean during high rain years and send it to San Antonio which historically has capacity for additional water because of its less productive watershed. However, the Interlake Tunnel will provide MCWRA a mechanism to transfer Nacimiento water potentially on an annual basis to San Antonio regardless of rainfall, thus reducing water storage in Nacimiento, due to the elevation of the inlet to the tunnel. Our primary concerns with the project is the actual operation of the tunnel, how it will be used, how much water will actually be transferred from Nacimiento to San Antonio,

and under what circumstances.

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee believes that that San Luis Obispo County should request MCWRA provide a plan that details how the Interlake Tunnel project will be operated with assurance it will not reduce the reliability of our County's annual Nacimiento water rights. The plan should address issues including at what reservoir water elevation/inflow rates the tunnel will be operated and how flows from San Antonio will be managed to reduce the outflows from the Nacimiento Dam. In addition to requesting this operations plan, we advise San Luis Obispo County to independently review the proposed project and analyze the potential impacts to the reliability of our water supply.

Additionally, the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee believes that MCWRA's pursuit of the Interlake Tunnel project may provide an opportunity for San Luis Obispo County to expand or improve its water rights which could benefit all of the Nacimiento water project participants. Improvements that could be explored include the ability to have "carry-over" storage in the reservoir, or an increase in our annual allocation of 17,500 acre-feet. We urge San Luis Obispo County to explore these options, and engage in discussion with MCWRA about these opportunities. We believe that any reduction in the reliability of our water allocation due to this project should be offset. Furthermore, there may be willingness on the part of the Nacimiento water project participants to support or participate in some way to the proposed Interlake Tunnel Project in some way if new benefits to those participants are made available.

Finally, the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee requests regular updates from San Luis Obispo County as it relates to the Interlake Project, including actions taken relative to the recommendations above and positions taken on the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Sue Luft

Chairperson
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts
Wade Horton, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Director