



Sue Luft Chairperson	Anthony Kalvans Vice Chairperson	Courtney Howard Secretary
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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 Cattleman'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 Duffenbaugh
Rural Resident At-Large District 1
- Erin Faulkner
Rural Resident At-Large District 5
- Larry Werner
Undesignated At Large

May 1, 2015

Honorable Debbie Arnold
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Paso Basin Advisory Committee 2014-15 Annual Report

Dear Chairperson Arnold,

This brief report is submitted to your Board to summarize the highlights of the activities of your Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) for the period April 2014 to March 2015.

The purpose of the PBAC 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 PBAC also serves as a public forum to discuss and collect comments on Basin issues. The PBAC continues to rely on its six ad hoc subcommittees to assist with tracking Basin efforts and developing recommendations for the PBAC’s consideration regarding the following issues:

- Basin Management and Forms of Governance
- Computer Modeling
- Conservation
- Outreach and Education
- Potential Projects in the Basin to Address Declining Levels
- Potential Water Supply Sources to Supplement Basin Supplies

Some of the key accomplishments of the PBAC include:

- Developed committee bylaws
- Formed the Groundwater Management, Supply Options Study, In-Basin Solutions and Implementation, Basin Computer Model Update, Outreach and Education, Conservation subcommittees
- Reviewed and commented on the groundwater model update
- Reviewed and commented on the supplemental water supply study
- Reviewed and commented on the groundwater export ordinance
- Reviewed and commented on water district boundaries

May 1, 2015

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Please find attached a monthly summary of the PBAC's activities and a summary of subcommittee accomplishments and hours expended. On March 19, 2015, the PBAC unanimously approved this report for submittal to your Board.

Respectfully submitted,

John Neil
Former PBAC Chairperson

Attachments: PBAC 2014-15 Annual Report and Subcommittee Efforts Summary to the District Board of Supervisors

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts

**Paso Basin Advisory Committee
2014-15 Annual Report to the
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH:

***Please note that subcommittee report and staff updates are provided on a monthly basis.*

May, 2014

Member Larry Werner is elected as interim Chairperson and Member John Neil as interim Vice-Chairperson, with the positions to be held until the BOS approves the committee bylaws.

Regular meeting days and times are established; the 3rd Thursday of every month from 2 – 4 p.m. with alternating location alternating between Templeton and Paso Robles.

A motion unanimously carries to recommend that the BOS approve the draft bylaws as amended.

The Groundwater Management, Supply Options Study, In-Basin Solutions and Implementation, Basin Computer Model Update, and Outreach and Education subcommittees are formed.

June, 2014

Member John Neil is elected the 2014 Committee Chairperson and Member Wilmore is elected Vice Chair, both unanimously.

The draft meeting guidelines are unanimously approved.

A motion unanimously carries to form a separate Conservation Subcommittee.

A motion fails (7-14-2-NR¹) to add seats on the Committee for Shandon, Creston, San Miguel and Templeton.

July, 2014

Chair Neil steps down as chair of the Groundwater Management Subcommittee, and Member Halley is unanimously approved as his replacement. Member Johnson is added as subcommittee member.

Member Britz is unanimously approved to chair the Supply Options Feasibility Study Subcommittee.

Member Luft is unanimously approved to chair the Computer Model Update Subcommittee.

Member Engel is unanimously approved to chair the Outreach and Education Subcommittee.

Member Merrill steps down as chair of the In-Basin Solutions Subcommittee, Member Werner is unanimously approved his replacement.

¹ Yes-No-Abstain-Absent (or Not Recorded)

Member Edwards is unanimously approved to chair the Conservation Subcommittee.

A request to record roll call voting is made.

August, 2014

Member Edwards presents a detailed outline of the agricultural water use offset program developed in accordance with the County Urgency Ordinance for the basin. The Committee discusses annual verification of water use by a third party, using wells as monitoring wells instead of abandoning them, areas encompassed by the new water district, and the best ratio for agricultural offset.

The Committee discusses: what to do if the statutory water district is against the Pavley-Dickinson; how and when to incorporate Pavley-Dickinson to AB 2453, if it passes; creating a joint powers authority; water district boundaries; and the difference between adjudication and a water district.

Member Luft fills a vacancy in the In-Basin Solutions Subcommittee.

A request is made for subcommittees to provide a summary of their meetings and attach it to the agenda.

September, 2014

John Diodati, County Staff, provides an overview of recent groundwater legislation. Mr. Diodati describes the proposed \$7-billion water bond on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

A motion carries (16-6-0-NR) to send a letter to the BOS advising it to submit a Resolution of Application to LAFCO for the formation of a Paso Robles Basin Water District should AB 2453 be signed by the Governor. The letter was authored by Management Subcommittee and amended by the PBAC.

A motion unanimously carries to recommend that the BOS fund the release of Nacimiento Water Project surplus water into the Salinas River for North County benefit, making the releases cost neutral to Nacimiento Water Project partner agencies.

Alternate Member Hendrickson replaces Member Engel as chair of the Outreach and Education Subcommittee.

Various topics are discussed including: groundwater model and losses due to evaporation, water quality of Nacimiento water, desalination, unfair representation of North County, and exportation of water outside of the county.

October, 2014

The Committee discusses the approach for meeting the GSA's sustainability plan requirements for the basin.-2

A motion unanimously carries to recommend that the BOS amend Article V, paragraph 5 of the Committee bylaws to read: "Fourteen members, or their alternates in their absence, shall constitute a quorum."

Erica Stuckey, County Counsel, provides an overview of the County's Draft Ordinance Regulating the Exportation of Groundwater. The Committee discusses the proposed exemption of the county and county contractors from the ordinance; when the state allows exportation of water; and what current water exportation situations have been seen.

A motion unanimously carries to include the Draft Ordinance Regulating the Exportation of Groundwater on the Committee's November agenda in order to make formal recommendations to the BOS regarding the County's, Flood Control District's, and County and/or District contractors' exemptions from the ordinance.

November, 2014

David Church, Executive Director of LAFCO, provides an overview of the draft LAFCO Guidelines for Paso Basin Water District Formation, which includes information on the associated legislation and the information needed to apply to LAFCO to form the district. The Committee discusses the timing for the three election processes required to form the district, funding and election of board members for the district, board candidate eligibility and categories, and the level of detail required in the application.

Alternate Member Devin Best provides an overview of the Wetland Infiltration Ponds Program; including its effects on water quality and quantity. The Committee discusses the new requirement by the Regional Quality Control Board that the hydrology on a property does not change from pre- development to post-development, whether they are in- stream or off- stream ponds, and the effect on projects' time frames due to permitting issues.

A motion unanimously carries to write a letter to the BOS requesting that it change Section 4.10- Need for Additional Implementation Measures of technical memorandum #5 from "no additional implementation measures beyond what has been implemented and are planned for the SNMP planning period are warranted" to "no additional implementation measures beyond what has been implemented and are planned for the SNMP planning period are currently planned. Further measures may be warranted in the future."

A motion carries (20-0-1-3) to change the charge of the Outreach and Education Subcommittee.

A motion carries (19-0-1-4) to send a letter to the BOS expressing the Committee's disagreement with the language in the proposed groundwater exportation ordinance that exempts the Flood Control District, County, and County and District contractors from the requirements of the ordinance.

December, 2014

A motion carries (20-0-0-4) to send a letter to the BOS requesting it approve additional funding for model refinement and additional model runs as recommended by the Computer Model Update Subcommittee.

Matt Thompson, City of Paso Robles Public Works Department Environmental Engineer, gave a presentation on the city's water treatment plant, waste water treatment plant upgrades, and the recycled water initiative. Discussion ensues on water quality of recycled water. Discussion arises regarding the salinity of water that will be placed back into the basin and hardness of Nacimiento water.

The Committee discusses the introduction of supplemental water at different locations throughout the city.

January, 2015

A motion carries (21-1-0-2) to convey support for County staff's Water District application efforts and indicates the belief that staff is pursuing the correct course.

A motion carries (18-3-1-2) to convey support for the County's proposal to utilize Bulletin 118 groundwater basin boundaries, with the understanding that those areas outside of the Fugro boundary will be removed from the district boundary when allowed to do so by the Department of Water Resources.

A motion unanimously carries to support William Frost's application for the Committee seat vacated by the resignation of Member Steve Crouch.

February, 2015

A motion carries (20-2-1-1) to advise the BOS to continue with the process of adopting an interim Agricultural Water Conservation Offset Program ordinance that would stand until such time a management body is established to manage the Paso Basin, have the ordinance come back to the Committee for input, and approve the ordinance before expiration of the urgency ordinance.

A motion unanimously carries to send a letter to the BOS inquiring about the status of releasing surplus Nacimiento water into the Salinas River and revising the approach to the Supply Options Study.

The Committee directs the Conservation Subcommittee to proceed with reaching out to agricultural organizations to collect information on best management practices.

The Committee unanimously approves a vision for membership that will be used to vet applications for vacant positions and develop recommendations for the BOS.

March, 2015

The Committee elects Member Sue Luft as Chair, and Member Anthony Kalvans as Vice Chair.

A motion unanimously carries to advise the BOS to adopt a strong ordinance regulating the exportation of groundwater within the legal framework of County authority.

Opportunities to reorganize the subcommittees are discussed.

The Committee approves submitting an Annual Report to the BOS and asks that John Neil, previous chair, add information regarding key PBAC and subcommittee achievements and estimated hours expended prior to sending it to the Board of Supervisors.

Subcommittee Activities

In-basin Projects Subcommittee

The subcommittee focused on developing and reviewing physical solutions to address issues in the basin including supplemental water, off-stream retention, recycled water, creation of county service areas or irrigation districts, and other projects. The subcommittee reviewed and provided input on the Salt and Nutrient Management plan; groundwater model update; potential use of water from the Nacimiento Water Project by J. Lohr Winery; stream bed retention feasibility; and began a detailed analysis of the potential to supply Nacimiento Water to the Jardine area, which would result in decreased groundwater extractions, improvements in water quality and the recharge of the basin. The nine member subcommittee collectively spent over 1,000 man-hours in 2014 working to fulfill its mission, not including hours spent preparing for and attending the regular PBAC meetings.

Supplemental Supply Options

The subcommittee primarily met to review and provide input to County staff on the Supplemental Water Supply Options Study commissioned by the County. The Study itself fell well behind schedule, limiting the Subcommittee's ability to provide feedback and advice to the County. To date, only one two minor components of the Draft study have been released to the Committee for review. The County has appeared to disregard the Subcommittee's initial recommendation to alter the scope of the study to focus on more tangible, short term projects.

In addition to the review and comments on the components of the Supplemental Water Supply Options Study, the Subcommittee reviewed and discussed: MCWRA proposed Interlake Tunnel Project; City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Plan/Progress; Nacimiento Water Project releases into the Salinas River for recharge evaluation; State Water Project turnout in Shandon; and Rural Community Water System Options/Connections.

Five subcommittee meetings were held over the year. The nine member subcommittee collectively spent over 250 man-hours in 2014 working to fulfill its mission, not including hours spent preparing for and attending the regular PBAC meetings.

Outreach & Education

The mission of the subcommittee was provide input on: the integration of outreach; education and conservation programs into the amended AB 3030 Plan; the approach to advertising and conducting public workshops associated with basin efforts; development of the basin website(s); and how to convey technical information, such as the computer modeling results.

The subcommittee developed a comprehensive Outreach and Education plan to reinforce public awareness of water issues, including: a phone survey questionnaire to gauge public knowledge; direct mail postcards to reach residents and remote landowners alike; an informational brochure to be distributed throughout the Basin; radio spots to create more personal contact; and a website to lay out more in-depth information. It developed a budget for the above O & E programs and explored paths to county funding and devised a phased approach to the various items to allow more funding flexibility.

The subcommittee developed a proposal and criteria for replacing PBAC members and alternates who resign, which was adopted by the PBAC. It reviewed application(s) to fill an alternate position on the PBAC, and recommended a qualified candidate to the main committee and the Board of Supervisors.

The subcommittee helped County staff put together suggested locations for town hall meetings and other venues to present water district and SGMA information to residents and landowners. It met regularly with County staff and urged them to take more active steps to: address the lack of accurate information among many residents and landowners; identify all voting Basin stakeholders, including

non-resident landowners; create a social media presence, at the very least on Facebook; use the County's existing multiple websites to house new SGMA information; develop methods, including neighborhood meetings, to reach out to rural areas not covered under existing advisory bodies, and suggest locations for this type of meeting; and make a GIS parcel map available online with the Bulletin 118 boundaries.

The subcommittee – in the year since it was formed – has spent a cumulative 340 man-hours of work in subcommittee meetings and preparation, in addition to the time these same volunteers have put in on the main PBAC committee.

Computer Model Update

The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide input on model refinement efforts at key milestones, provide input on the various scenarios to be evaluated with the updated model in coordination with the In-Basin Subcommittee and to make recommendations to the full BAC as appropriate, including maintenance of the model over time.

Three subcommittee meetings were held, with the model consultant and County staff in attendance or via conference call. Detailed comments were provided by subcommittee members in writing and during the public presentation of the model update. The subcommittee supported the recommended model refinements and additional model runs. This support was indicated in a letter from the BAC to the BoS. The BoS authorized the requested work.

The nine member subcommittee collectively spent over 260 man-hours from March 2014 through March 2015 reviewing and commenting on the computer model update report, not including hours spent preparing for and attending the regular PBAC meetings.