



**Fw: Water from the Nacimiento Water Project**

**Courtney Howard** to: Courtney Howard

05/19/2015 01:04 PM

Per request of Mr. O'Malley, the PBAC is being copied on the following email.

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 05/19/2015 09:22 AM -----

From: "Tom O'Malley" <tomomalley@charter.net>  
To: <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>  
Cc: <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 05/18/2015 08:29 PM  
Subject: FW: Water from the Nacimiento Water Project

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Dear Supervisor Mecham,

At its meeting on May 21, 2015, your Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) will be considering whether to recommend that the Board of Supervisors (BoS) get involved with the distribution of the 6,100 acre-feet/year of water from the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) that is currently unallocated.

For over two years, the NWP initial participants (Paso, Atascadero Mutual Water, Templeton, City of SLO) have been working diligently with county staff on an agreement to divide the unallocated water from the NWP among the initial participants and the County, and terms have been reached on the framework of the agreement. The initial participants are in the best position to immediately put all the water from the NWP to beneficial use.

The NWP initial participants took the all the risk and fronted the entire cost for construction of the NWP (\$196,000,000). Atascadero Mutual Water Company's share of this cost was \$38,000,000 for a subscription of 2,000 acre-feet/year.

The County General Plan Conservation and Open Space element states that safe, reliable, and sustainable water supplies will need to be provided in urban areas, and that development should be directed from areas that rely on groundwater to urban areas served by surface water. Policy WR 1.8 goes so far as to require that surface water projects, like the Nacimiento Water Project, should only be used to served development within urban and village reserve lines. Now certain members of the agricultural community that are on the PBAC want to block full subscription to the NWP by the initial participants, thereby slowing the beneficial use of this surface water source, and possibly eliminating its use for urban areas altogether.

Please adhere to the policies of your General Plan when you consider the best use of unallocated water from the Nacimiento Water Project. We also strongly urge you to consider the recommendations made by the Nacimiento Water Project Commission before making any decision on the disposition of any unallocated water from the NWP.

Respectfully,

Tom O'Malley, Mayor