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Larry Werner
Undesignated At Large

November 23, 2015

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

Re: Basin Boundary Modification Request - Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Paso Robles Area of the Salinas Valley Basin (known locally as the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin) was described by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Bulletin 118-75 and 118-80 in the 1970s and 1980s. Bulletin 118-2003 was prepared as a compilation of existing data. This bulletin was last updated in February, 2004 and contains references to the work of Fugro West in 2001/2.

For purposes of various County-led studies of the groundwater basin, the basin boundaries as defined by Fugro have been used. The Fugro Report was based on the best scientific data available and continues to represent the locally-used definition of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

DWR recently adopted emergency regulations for the modification of groundwater basin boundaries. The emergency regulations provide a mechanism to modify basin boundaries based on new scientific information and local groundwater management knowledge to improve coordination and promote statewide sustainable groundwater management. Scientific (based on the geologic or hydrologic conditions that define a groundwater basin) and jurisdictional (not a scientific modification but promotes sustainable groundwater management) modifications will be considered by DWR. Modification requests must be submitted by March 31, 2016.

On November 19, 2015, the Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) voted unanimously, with one abstention, to send the following request to your Board.

“The PBAC requests that the County Flood Control District take the lead and consult with other agencies to petition DWR before March 31, 2016 to revise the Paso Robles Area of the Salinas Valley Basin (3-04.06) boundaries to match the Fugro map and recommends that the jurisdictional boundaries be considered during the formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency.”

We hope that your Board will direct staff to begin this process.

Sincerely,



Sue Luft
Chairperson, Paso Basin Advisory Committee

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts
John Diodati, SLO County Public Works
Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works