



## **Comprehensive Plan to Bring the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin into Sustainability**

### ***Introduction***

It is apparent that groundwater levels in the Paso Robles Basin have been declining and that GSP Management Actions will be necessary to bring the Basin into sustainability. J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines (JLVW) believes that, with the cooperation of the agricultural community, significant reductions in groundwater pumping are achievable and much of the current 13,700 AFY overdraft can be overcome. JLVW would like to present two programs that are essential if pumpers in the Basin are to achieve meaningful reductions in groundwater pumping. **First** is the opportunity to bring supplemental water to the Basin. **Second** is to adopt Best Management Practices. It is important that these programs be considered for inclusion in the GSP

### ***Supplemental Water***

For several years, JLVW has been working with the City of Paso Robles and other fellow growers to design a backbone pipeline system that would deliver 'blended' water to high density agricultural areas around the Airport and east over the Red Zone. By blending treated water from the City of Paso Robles with Nacimiento Lake water, the system could provide a supplemental water source to farmers in the area for irrigation 'in lieu' of pumping groundwater. This could achieve meaningful reductions in groundwater pumping and specifically target reduced pumping in the most impacted areas.

### ***Best Management Practices (BPMs)***

1. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, JLVW held a seminar with its contracted growers. There were presentations by three outside experts. JLVW shared their accumulated knowledge on the optimal use of water in vineyard operations and attendees contributed to the discussion. There were 45 growers, vineyard managers and winery representatives in attendance. As an outcome, a list of management actions was generated which vineyard operators can implement immediately to reduce pumping while increasing fruit quality.
2. JLVW is currently individually contacting an expanded list of other vineyard owners and managers, wineries and local organizations to further discuss and refine best management practices. These BMPs (which we have been using at JLVW for 10 years) will demonstrate how others can increase quality, **use less water and fertilizer**, and maintain or increase yields.
3. After the 2019 harvest, we will hold additional technical sessions and tastings, open to all basin residents as well as growers and vintners, to demonstrate these aspects. This, hopefully, will help prepare growers for the very complex discussions needed for future pumping allocations.

### ***Conclusion***

J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines looks forward to leading this effort to bring Supplemental Water to the basin and to define and inculcate Best Management Practices to help ensure that Paso Robles remains one of the three featured wine regions in the United States while striving to create a sustainable groundwater basin for generations to come.