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Chapters 1, 2, 3

Paso Robles Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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DRAFT

Draft
Paso Robles Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Chapters 1 – 3

*Prepared for the Paso Robles Subbasin
Cooperative Committee and the
Groundwater Sustainability Agencies*
July 18, 2018

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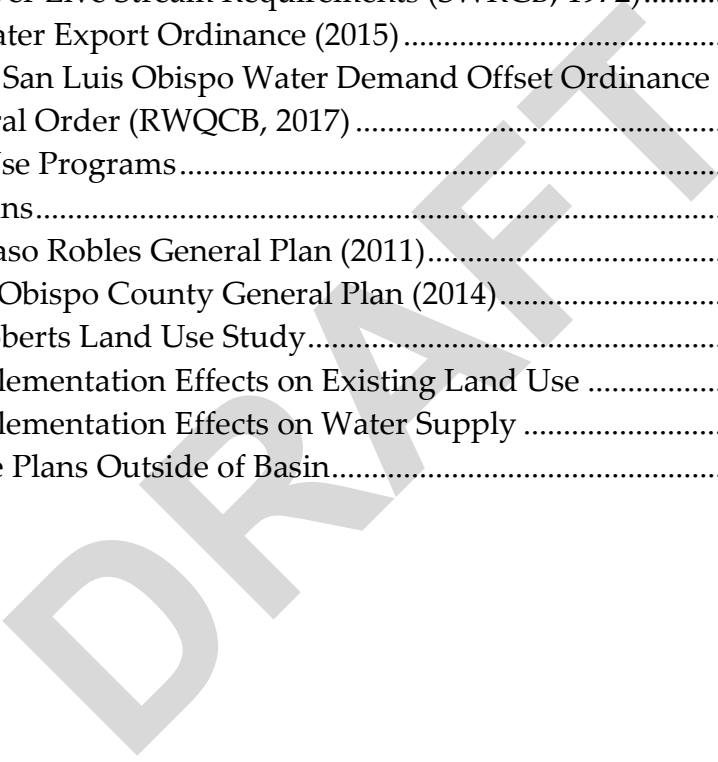
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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION TO PASO ROBLES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This law requires groundwater basins in California that are designated as medium or high priority be managed sustainably. Satisfying the requirements of SGMA generally requires four basic activities:

1. Forming one or multiple Groundwater Sustainability Agency(s) (GSAs) to fully cover a basin;
2. Developing one or multiple Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (GSPs) that fully cover the basin;
3. Implementing the GSP and managing to achieve quantifiable objectives; and
4. Regular reporting to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

This document fulfills the GSP requirement for the Paso Robles Area Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin (Paso Robles Subbasin or Subbasin). This GSP describes the Paso Robles Subbasin, develops quantifiable management objectives that account for the interests of the Subbasin's beneficial groundwater uses and users, and identifies a group of projects and management actions that will allow the Subbasin to achieve sustainability within 20 years of plan adoption.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF PASO ROBLES SUBBASIN

The Paso Robles Subbasin is identified by DWR in Bulletin 118 as Subbasin No. 3-004.06 (DWR, 2016). The Subbasin is part of the greater Salinas Valley Basin in the Central Coastal region of California. The Subbasin encompasses an area of approximately 438,000 acres, or 684 square miles. The subbasin boundaries as currently defined by DWR cover both Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. However, a basin boundary adjustment application has been submitted to DWR that moves the northern boundary of the Paso Robles Area Subbasin to the Monterey/San Luis Obispo county line. The subbasin will then be entirely within San Luis Obispo County (Figure 1-1). This draft document assumes that the proposed basin boundary adjustment is approved by DWR. Unless otherwise noted, all maps and calculations refer to the Paso Robles Subbasin with the approved basin boundary modification. If the basin boundary adjustment is not approved by DWR, this draft document will be modified appropriately to encompass the entire Paso Robles Subbasin.

A second basin boundary adjustment application has been submitted to DWR that proposes removing the land covered by Heritage Ranch Community Services District from the Subbasin. Because Heritage Ranch Community Services District is an active GSA in the basin, and will be reviewing this document, we have not removed the Heritage Ranch Community Services District area from this draft document. If the Heritage Ranch Community Services District basin boundary adjustment is approved, this draft document will be modified appropriately to remove all discussion of the Heritage Ranch Community Services District and the land it overlies.

The Subbasin, as modified by the proposed basin boundary adjustment, encompasses an area of approximately 438,000 acres, or 684 square miles. The Subbasin is bounded by two groundwater basins and two subbasins, as shown on Figure 1-1.

- The Atascadero Area Subbasin (3-004-11) is located southwest of the Paso Robles Subbasin. The boundary with the Subbasin is the Rinconada Fault zone which is a leaky barrier to groundwater flow.
- The Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin is located north of the Paso Robles Subbasin. Its aquifers are in hydraulic continuity with those in the Subbasin.
- The Cholame Valley (3-005) groundwater basin is located east of the Paso Robles Subbasin. Its western boundary is the San Andreas fault that is a barrier to groundwater flow.
- The Carrizo Plain (3-019) groundwater basin is located southeast of the Paso Robles Subbasin. The Carrizo Plain boundary with the Subbasin is a topographic high with sediments in hydraulic continuity with the Basin.

The Atascadero, Carrizo Plain and Cholame Valley groundwater basins are low priority and therefore not required to submit GSPs. Although not required to develop a GSP, the Atascadero Area Subbasin is planning to prepare and adopt a GSP. The Paso Robles Subbasin and Salinas Valley Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasin are subject to SGMA and are required to develop GSPs.

The Subbasin includes the incorporated City of Paso Robles. The Subbasin additionally includes the unincorporated census-designated places of Cholame, Creston, , San Miguel, Shandon, and Whitley Gardens (Figure 1-1).

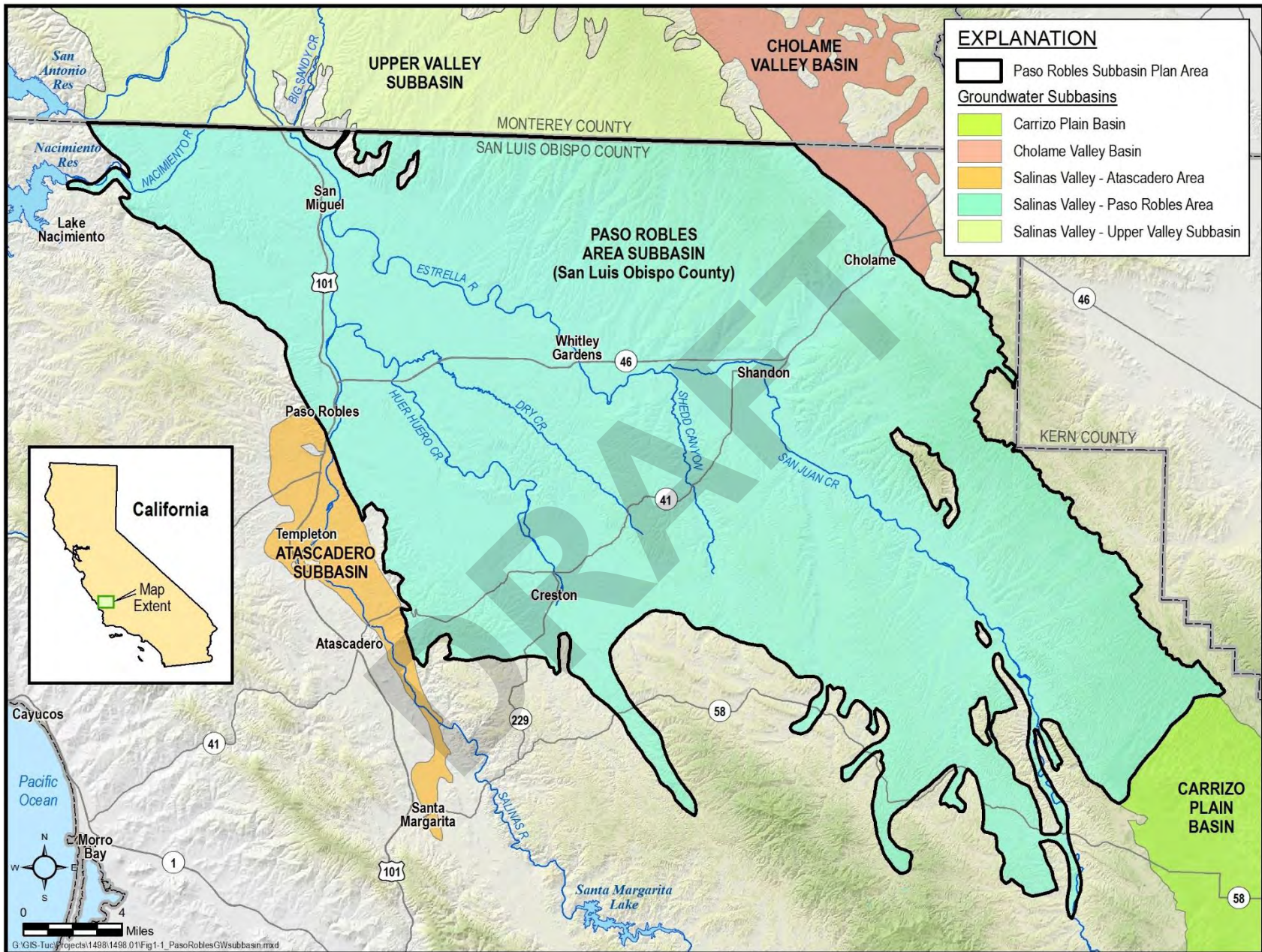


Figure 1-1: Paso Robles Subbasin and Surrounding Subbasins

CHAPTER 2. AGENCIES' INFORMATION

The Paso Robles Subbasin GSP has been jointly developed by five GSAs:

- City of Paso Robles
- Paso Basin - County of San Luis Obispo GSA
- San Miguel Community Services District (CSD)
- Shandon - San Juan GSA
- Heritage Ranch Community Services District (CSD)

2.1 AGENCIES' NAMES AND MAILING ADDRESSES

The following contact information is provided for each GSA pursuant to California Water Code § 10723.8.

City of Paso Robles GSA
1000 Spring Street
City of Paso Robles, CA 93635

Paso Basin - County of San Luis Obispo GSA
C/O County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works - Water Resources
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

San Miguel Community Services District
P.O. Box 180
San Miguel, CA 93451

Shandon - San Juan GSA
PO Box 360
Shandon, CA 93461

Heritage Ranch Community Services District
4870 Heritage Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

2.2 AGENCIES' ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The organization and management structures of each of the five subbasin GSAs are described below. Each of the five GSAs appoints a representative to a Cooperative Committee that is further described in Section 2.3.2.

2.2.1 CITY OF PASO ROBLES GSA

The City of Paso Robles is an incorporated city that operates under a Council-Manager general law form of government. The City Council consists of five members elected at-large, on a non-partisan basis. Council members serve four-year overlapping terms. The mayor is directly elected and serves a two-year term. Decisions on all GSA-related matters require an affirmative vote of a majority of the five-member City Council. One member from the City Council sits on the Cooperative Committee that coordinates activities among all five GSAs. The City of Paso Robles GSA's activities are staffed through the City's Department of Public Works.

2.2.2 PASO BASIN - COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO GSA

The County of San Luis Obispo is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, representing five districts in San Luis Obispo County. Board of Supervisor members are elected to staggered four-year terms. Decisions on all GSA-related matters require an affirmative vote of either a majority of the five-member Board of Supervisors or a supermajority consisting of four affirmative votes. One member from the Board of Supervisors sits on the Cooperative Committee that coordinates activities among all five GSAs. The Paso Basin - County of San Luis Obispo GSA's activities are staffed through the County's Department of Public Works.

2.2.3 SAN MIGUEL COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (CSD) GSA

San Miguel CSD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Directors are elected to four-year terms. Decisions on all GSA-related matters require an affirmative vote of a majority of the five Board of Directors members. One member from the San Miguel CSD Board of Directors sits on the Cooperative Committee that coordinates activities among all five GSAs. The San Miguel CSDs GSA's activities are staffed by the CSD's staff engineer.

2.2.4 SHANDON - SAN JUAN GSA

The Shandon-San Juan Water District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. The Directors are elected to staggered four-year terms. Decisions on all GSA-related matters

require an affirmative vote of a majority of the five-member Board of Directors. One member from the Shandon - San Juan GSA Board of Directors sits on the Cooperative Committee that coordinates activities among all five GSAs. The Shandon - San Juan GSA's activities are staffed by land owners and registered voters in the Water District.

2.2.5 HERITAGE RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Heritage Ranch CSD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Directors are elected to concurrent four-year terms. Decisions on all GSA-related matters require an affirmative vote of a majority of the five Board of Directors members. One member from the Heritage Ranch CSD Board of Directors sits on the Cooperative Committee that coordinates activities among all five GSAs. The Heritage Ranch CSDs GSA's activities are staffed by the CSD's staff engineer.

2.3 AUTHORITY OF AGENCIES

Each of the five GSAs developing this coordinated GSP were formed in accordance with the requirements of California Water Code § 10723 *et seq.* The resolutions of formation for all five GSAs are included in Appendix A. The specific authorities for forming a GSA and implementing the GSP for each of the five agencies that formed GSAs are listed below.

2.3.1 INDIVIDUAL GSAS

2.3.1.1 CITY OF PASO ROBLES GSA

The City of Paso Robles is incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The City provides water supply and land use planning services to its residents. The City is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a GSA, the City retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.*

2.3.1.2 PASO BASIN - COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO GSA

The County of San Luis Obispo has land use authority over the unincorporated areas of the County, including areas overlying the Paso Robles Subbasin. The County of San Luis Obispo is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a GSA, the County retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.*

2.3.1.3 SAN MIGUEL COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT GSA

San Miguel CSD is a local public agency of the State of California, organized and operating under the Community Services District Law, Government Code § 6100 *et seq.* San Miguel CSD provides water and sewer services to its residents. San Miguel CSD is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a GSA, San Miguel CSD retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.*

2.3.1.4 SHANDON - SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT GSA

The Shandon - San Juan Water District was formed in accordance with California's Water District Law, California Water Code § 34000 *et seq.* In accordance with California's Water District Law, the Shandon - San Juan Water District retains the water supply and management authorities included in California Water Code § 35300 *et seq.*, with the exception of the ability to export groundwater beyond the boundaries of the Paso Robles subbasin. The Shandon - San Juan Water District is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a GSA, the District retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.*

2.3.1.5 HERITAGE RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT GSA

Heritage Ranch CSD is a local public agency of the State of California, organized and operating under the Community Services District Law, Government Code § 6100 *et seq.* Heritage Ranch CSD provides water and sewer services to its residents. Heritage Ranch CSD is therefore a local agency under California Water Code § 10721 with the authority to establish itself as a GSA. Upon establishing itself as a GSA, Heritage Ranch CSD retains all the rights and authorities provided to GSAs under California Water Code § 10725 *et seq.*

2.3.2 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR GSP DEVELOPMENT

The five GSAs overlying the Subbasin entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in September 2017. The purpose of the MOA is to establish a committee to develop a single GSP for the entire Paso Robles Subbasin. The single GSP developed under this MOA will be considered for adoption by each individual GSA and subsequently submitted to DWR for approval. Per §12.2 of the MOA, the MOA shall automatically terminate upon DWR's approval of the adopted GSP. The GSAs may decide to enter into a new agreement to coordinate GSP implementation at that time. A copy of the MOA is included in Appendix A.

The MOA establishes the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (Cooperative Committee) consisting of one member and one alternate from each of the five GSAs. The Cooperative Committee conducts activities related to GSP development and SGMA implementation. The full list of activities the Cooperative Committee is authorized to undertake are included in the MOA in Appendix A; highlights include:

- Developing a GSP that achieves the goals and objectives outlined in SGMA;
- Reviewing and participating in the selection of consultants related to Cooperative Committee efforts;
- Developing annual budgets and additional funding needs;
- Developing a stakeholder participation plan; and
- Coordinating with neighboring GSAs.

The MOA sets forth each GSAs' weighted voting percentages and the votes needed to implement certain actions or make certain recommendations to the individual GSAs. In particular, the MOA states that the Cooperative Committee must unanimously vote to recommend that the five GSAs adopt the final GSP.

2.3.3 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR GSP IMPLEMENTATION

This section to be completed after GSP is complete

2.3.4 COORDINATION AGREEMENTS

The single GSP developed by the five GSAs completely covers the entire Paso Robles Subbasin. Therefore, no coordination agreements with other GSAs are necessary.

2.3.5 LEGAL AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT SGMA THROUGHOUT THE PLAN AREA

Figure 2-1 shows the extent of the GSP plan area, along with the extents of each of the five exclusive GSAs cooperating on this GSP. This figure shows that the entire plan area is covered by the five exclusive GSAs, and no portion of the Subbasin is covered by a non-exclusive GSA. Therefore, the combination of the five GSAs provides the legal authority to implement this GSP throughout the entire plan area. No authority is needed from any other GSA to implement this plan.

2.4 CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PLAN MANAGER

Mr. Dick McKinley
Public Works Director, City of Paso Robles
1000 Spring Street

City of Paso Robles, CA 93635
Phone: 805-237-3861
e-mail: dmckinley@prcity.com

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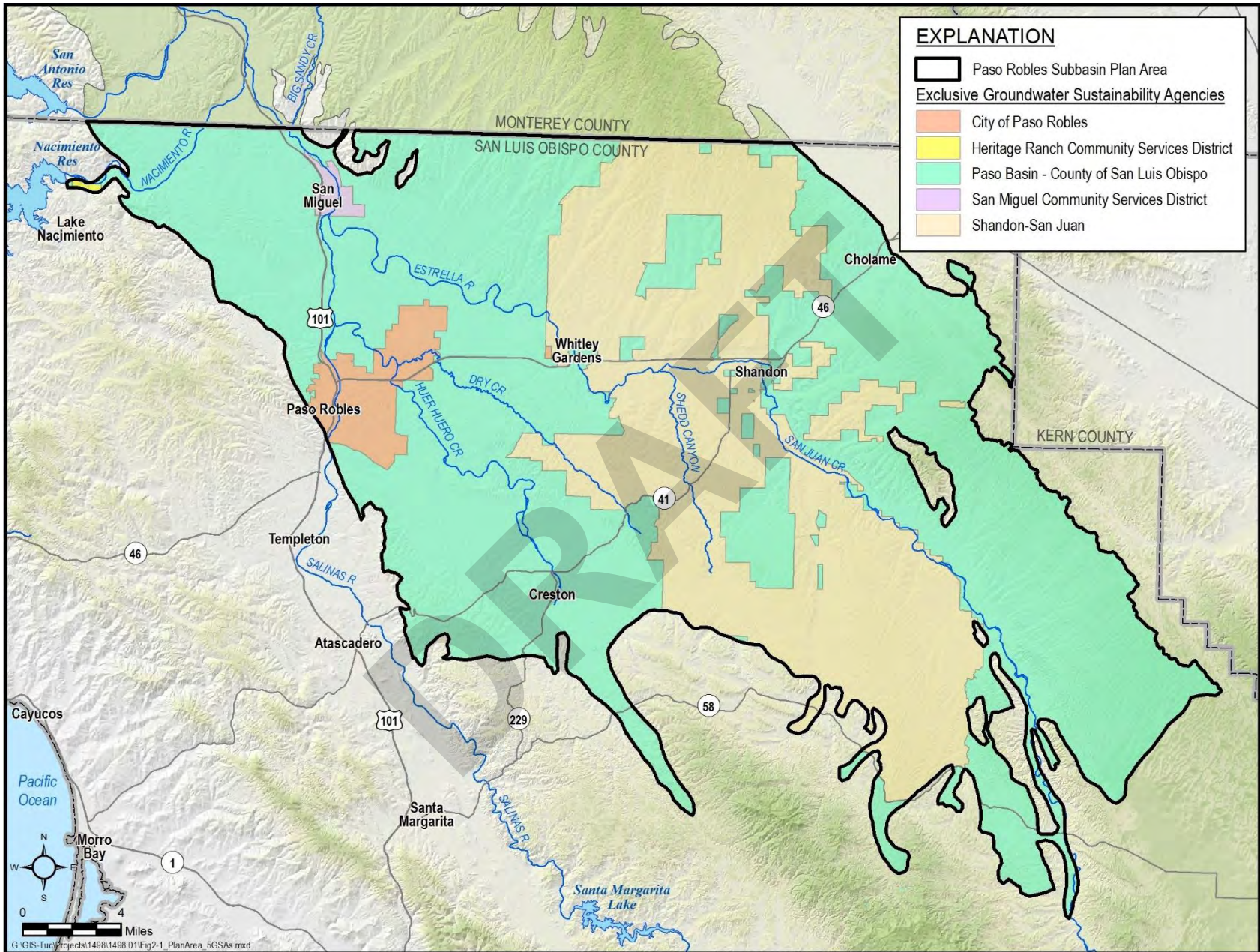


Figure 2-1: Extent of GSP Plan Area and Exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

CHAPTER 3. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN AREA

3.1 PASO ROBLES SUBBASIN INTRODUCTION

This GSP covers the entire Paso Robles Subbasin. The Subbasin lies in the northern portion of San Luis Obispo County. The majority of the Subbasin comprises gentle flatlands near the Salinas River Valley, ranging in elevation from approximately 445 to 2,387 feet above mean sea level. The average annual precipitation ranges from 8 to 21 inches and rainfall increases across the Subbasin from the southeast to the northwest (DWR, 2004).

The Subbasin is drained by the Salinas River. Tributaries to the Salinas River include the Estrella River, Huer Huero Creek, and San Juan Creek. Urban communities in the Subbasin are the City of Paso Robles and the communities of San Miguel, Creston, Shandon, and Heritage Ranch. Highway 101 is the most significant north-south highway in the Subbasin, with Highways 41 and 46 running east-west across the Subbasin. Figure 3-1 shows the extent of the plan area as well as the significant water bodies, communities, and highways.

3.2 ADJUDICATED AREAS, OTHER GSAs, AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS

No part of the Subbasin is adjudicated, nor are any surrounding subbasins adjudicated. No other GSAs exist within the Subbasin. No alternative plans have been submitted for any part of the Subbasin, nor for any surrounding subbasin. Because there are no adjudicated areas, other GSAs, or alternative plans in the Subbasin, no map is included in this GSP for these items.

3.3 OTHER JURISDICTIONAL AREAS

In addition to the five GSAs, there are several federal, state, and local agencies that have some degree of water management authority in the Subbasin. Each agency or organization is discussed below. A map of the jurisdictional extent of the Federal and State agencies within the Subbasin is shown on Figure 3-2. A map showing the jurisdictional extent of city and local jurisdictions within the Subbasin is shown on Figure 3-3.

3.3.1 FEDERAL JURISDICTIONS

Federal agencies with land holdings in the Subbasin include the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. A portion of the Los Padres National Forest covers a small area near the southern boundary of the Subbasin. The Bureau of Land Management owns two small parcels in the Red Hills area that partially overlie the Subbasin.

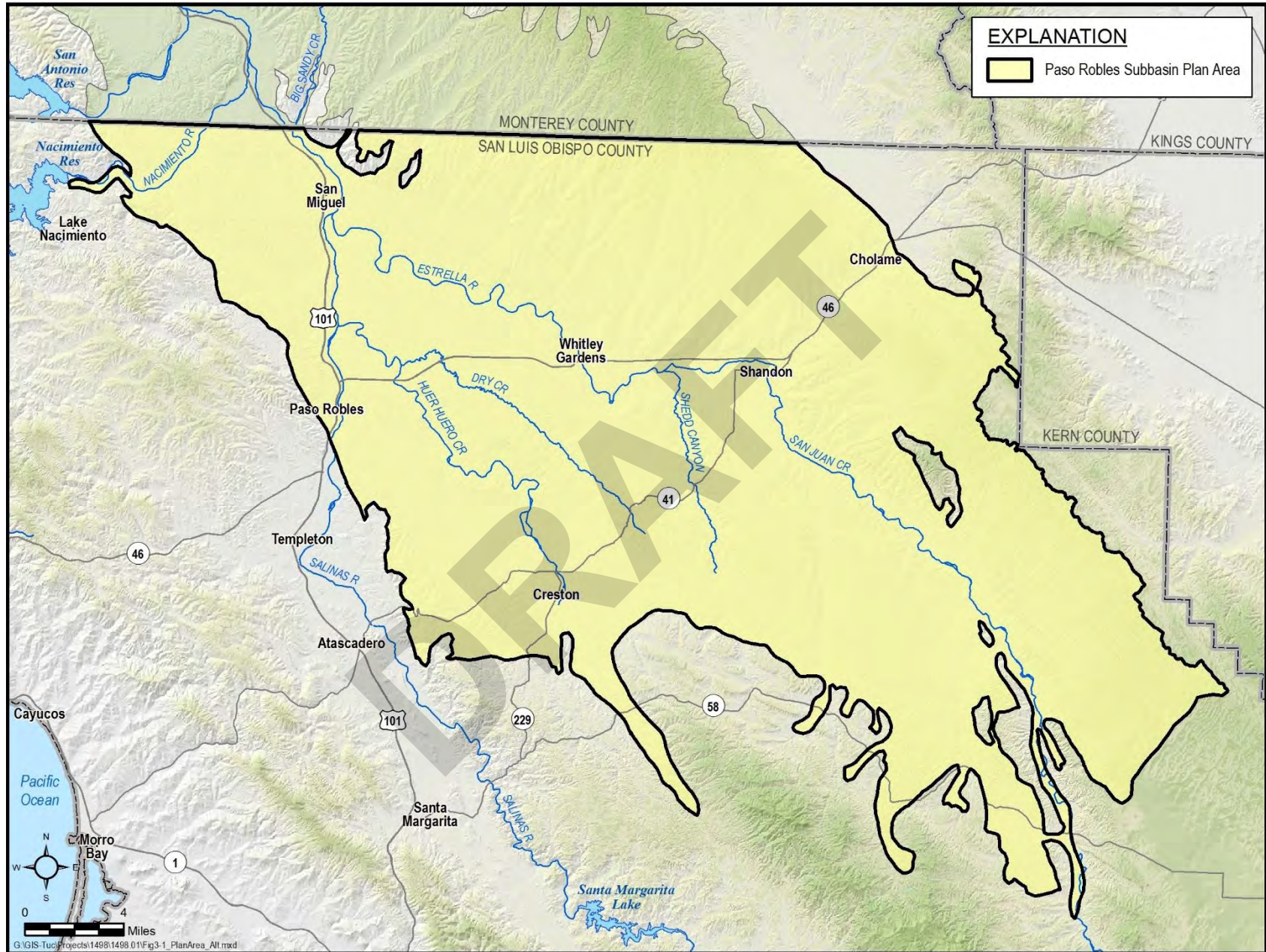


Figure 3-1: Area Covered by GSP

3.3.2 TRIBAL JURISDICTION

The two prominent Native American Tribes in San Luis Obispo County are the Salinan and Northern Chumash Indian tribes. These two tribes do not have any recognized tribal land in the Subbasin.

3.3.3 STATE JURISDICTIONS

State agencies in the Subbasin include the California National Guard and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The California National Guard occupies Camp Roberts at the north end of the Subbasin. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife oversees an area along the Salinas River near Camp Roberts. The Department of Fish and Wildlife additionally has three conservation easements that partially overlie the eastern boundary of the Subbasin.

3.3.4 COUNTY JURISDICTION

The County of San Luis Obispo and the associated SLOFCWCD has jurisdiction over the entire Subbasin. Land owned or managed by the County in the Subbasin includes a conservation easement south of the City of Paso Robles operated by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County; CW Clark Park in Shandon; and Wolf Property Natural Area in San Miguel.

3.3.5 CITY AND LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

The City of Paso Robles lies on the west side of the Subbasin. The City has water management authority over its incorporated area and manages a number of parks and recreational sites. Two community service districts exist in the Subbasin: the San Miguel CSD and the Heritage Ranch CSD. Two primarily agricultural water districts exist in the Subbasin: the Shandon - San Juan Water District and the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District.

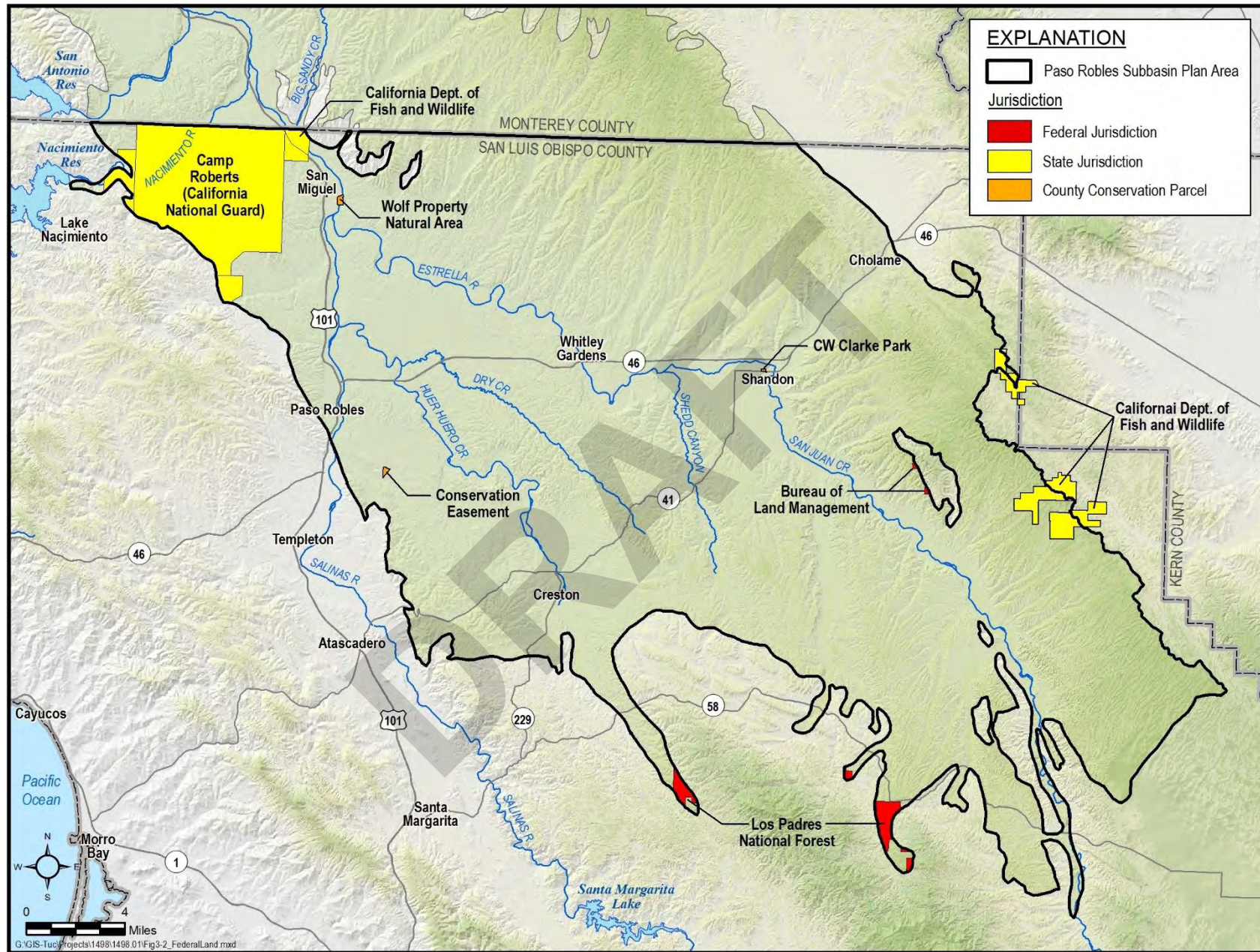


Figure 3-2: Map of Federal Jurisdictional Areas, State Jurisdictional Areas and County Conservation Parcels

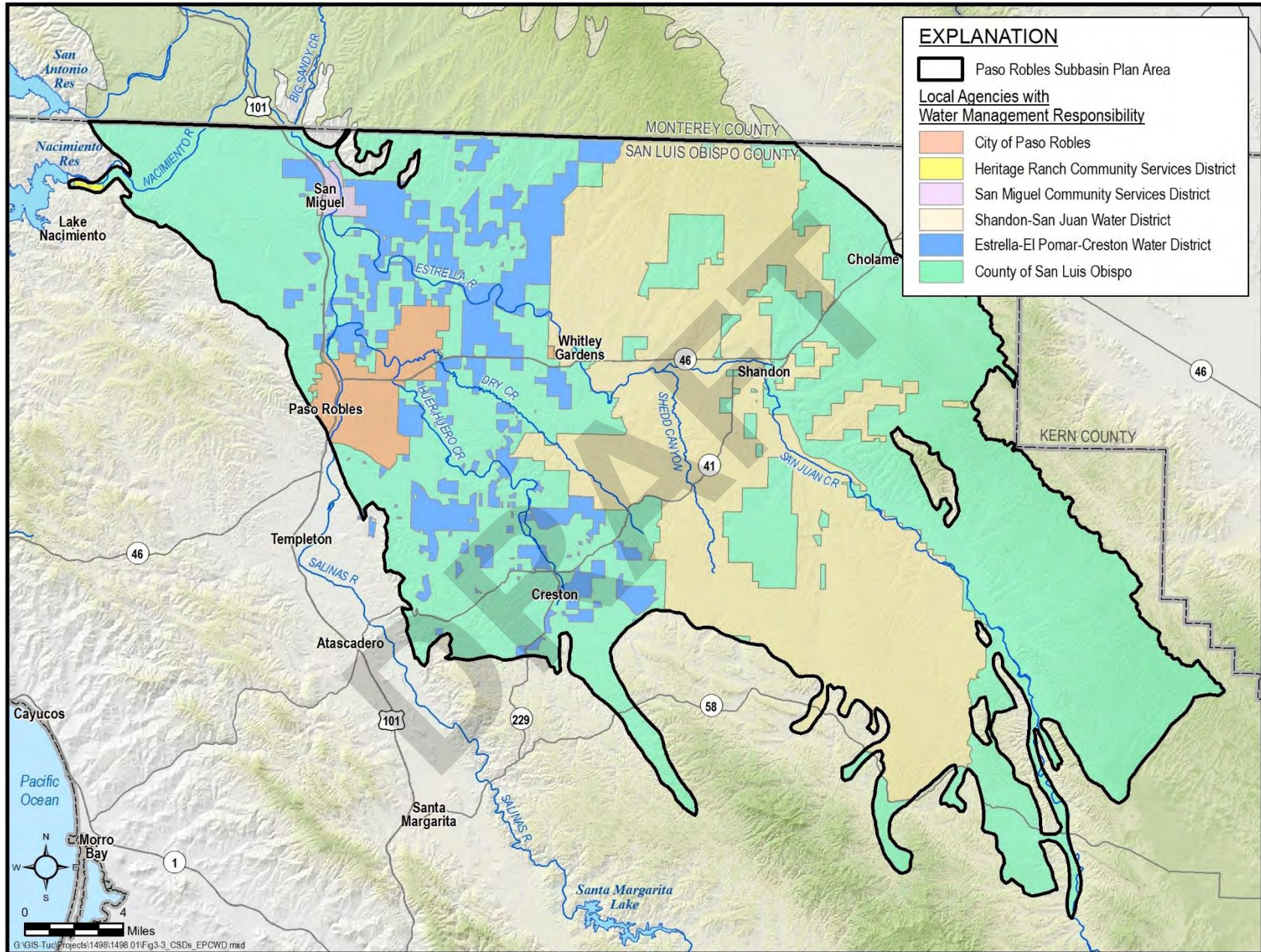


Figure 3-3: Map of City, CSD, and Water District Jurisdictional Areas

3.4 LAND USE

Land use planning authority in the Subbasin is the responsibility of the County of San Luis Obispo and the City of Paso Robles. Land use information for the Subbasin was collected Department of Water Resources, the County of San Luis Obispo’s Agricultural Commissioner Offices and from other County departments. Current land use in the Subbasin is shown on Figure 3-4 and is summarized by group in Table 3-1. All land use categories except native vegetation listed on Table 3-1 are the land use categories provided by DWR (2014). The balance of the approximately 438,000 acres in the GSP Plan Area is largely native vegetation and could include dry farmed land.

Table 3-1: Land Use Summary

Land Use Category	Acres
Citrus and subtropical	304
Deciduous fruits and nuts	2,339
Grain and hay crops	266
Idle	10,096
Pasture	3,254
Truck nursery and berry crops	955
Urban	22,199
Vineyard	32,076
Young perennial	71
Native vegetation	366,440
Total	438,000

Source: DWR, 2014

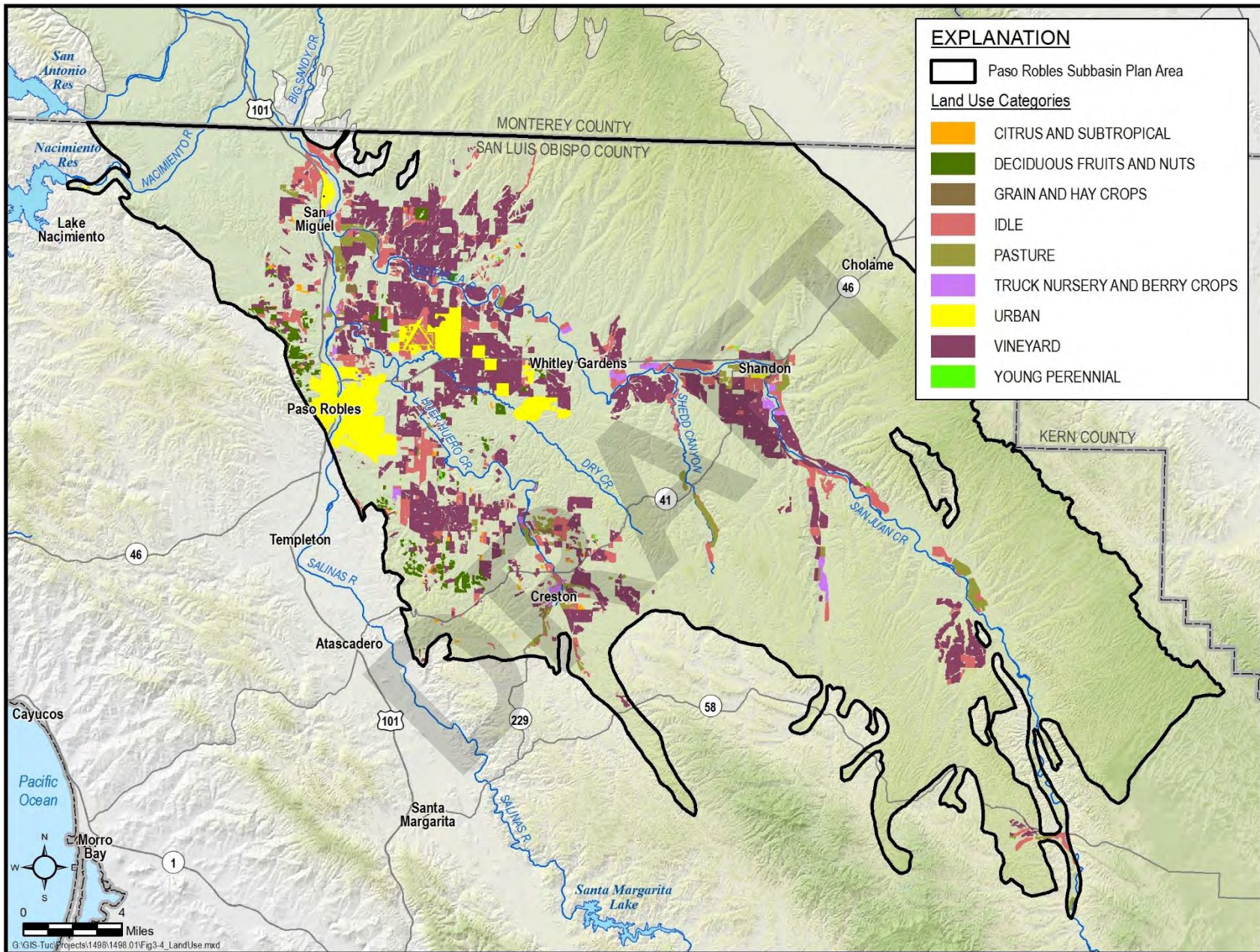


Figure 3-4: Existing Land Use Designations

3.4.1 WATER SOURCE TYPES

The Subbasin has three water source types: groundwater, surface water, and recycled water. Until 2015, all water demands in the Subbasin were met with groundwater. Figure 3-5 shows the communities, including cities and census-designated places, that depend on groundwater as their source of water.

The City of Paso Robles began using Nacimiento Project Water in 2015. (Todd Groundwater, 2016). The City holds a right to 6,488 acre-feet per year (AFY). Community Service Area 16 (CSA16), surrounding the community of Shandon, has a State Water Project (SWP) contract allocation of 100 AFY from the Coastal Branch of the SWP. In 2017, CSA16 took delivery of 99 AF of water, which was the first delivery of SWP water. The locations of the pipelines supplying these water sources are shown on Figure 3-5, along with the land areas supplied by these surface water sources.

Historically, recycled water has not been used as a source of water in the Subbasin. The City of Paso Robles, San Miguel CSD, Heritage Ranch CSD, and Camp Roberts operate wastewater treatment plants. The City of Paso Robles is currently upgrading its water treatment system and plans to use its treated wastewater for irrigation and other non-potable uses. San Miguel CSD is also investigating non-potable use of wastewater. Currently, there is no land using wastewater as a water source type.

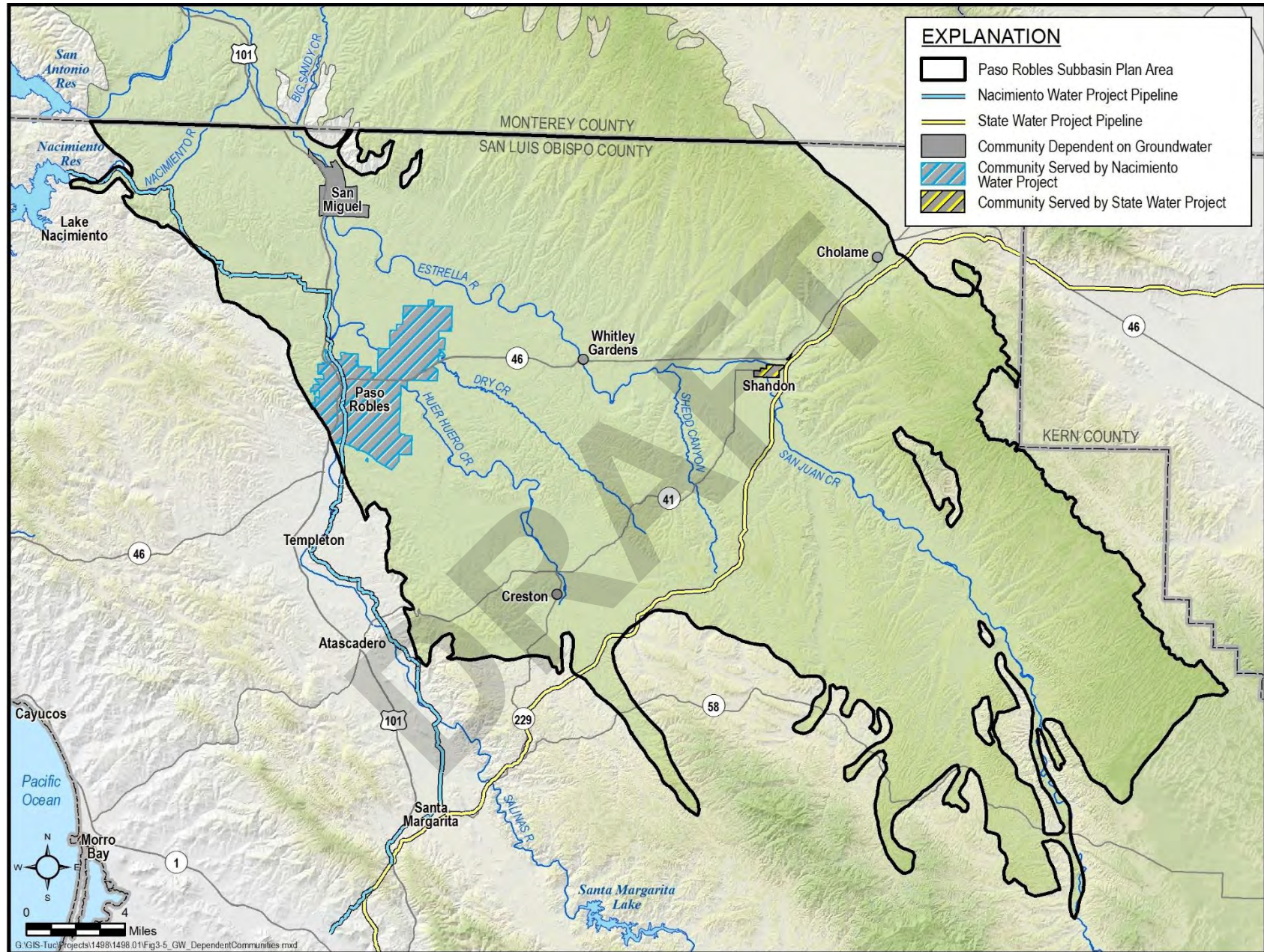


Figure 3-5: Map of location and extent of communities dependent on groundwater

3.4.2 WATER USE SECTORS

Water demands in the Basin are organized into the six water use sectors identified in the GSP emergency regulations. These include:

- **Urban.** Urban water use is assigned to non-agricultural water uses in the cities and census-designated places. Domestic use outside of census-designated places is not considered urban use.
- **Industrial.** There is limited industrial use in the Subbasin. DWR does not have any records of wells in the subbasin that are categorized as for industrial use. Most industrial use is associated with agriculture and is lumped into the agricultural water use sector.
- **Agricultural.** This is the largest water use sector in the Subbasin by water use.
- **Managed wetlands.** There are no managed wetlands in the Subbasin.
- **Managed recharge.** There is no managed recharge in the Subbasin. Recycled water discharge to ponds is included in the urban water use sector
- **Native vegetation.** This is the largest water use sector in the Subbasin by land area. This sector includes rural residential areas.

Figure 3-6 shows the distribution of the water use sectors in the Subbasin.

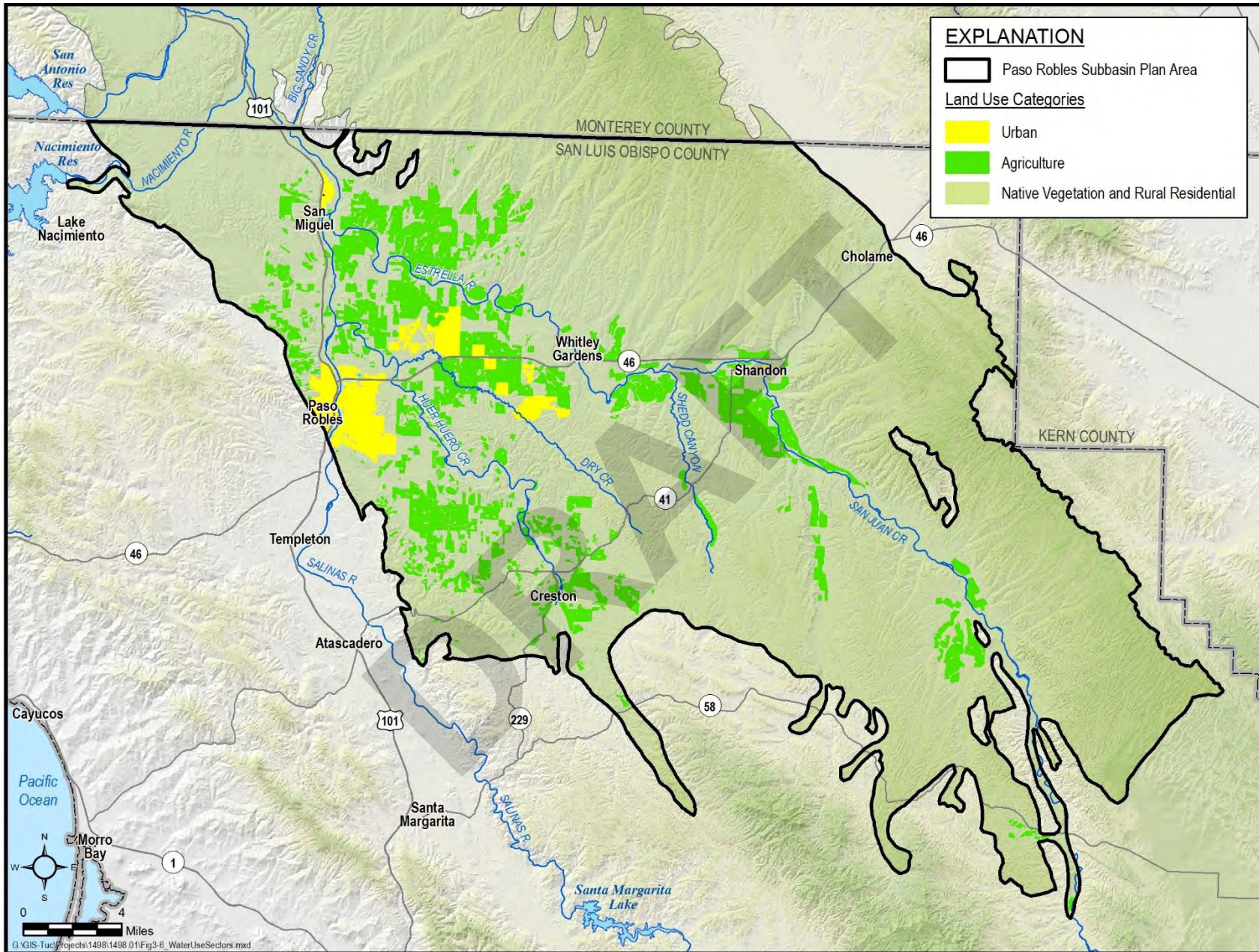


Figure 3-6: Water Use Sectors

3.5 EXISTING WELL TYPES, NUMBERS, AND DENSITY

Well types, well depth data, and well distribution data were downloaded from DWR's *Well completion report map application*. (DWR, 2018). DWR categorizes wells in this mapping application as either domestic, production, or public supply. These categories are based on the well use information submitted with the well logs to DWR. Table 3-2 summarizes the types of well by use for all well logs submitted to DWR. We assume that the majority of the wells categorized on well logs as production wells are used for agriculture. Most of the wells in the Subbasin are used for domestic purposes.

Table 3-2: Types of Wells

Type of Well	Total Wells
Domestic	1,042
Production	99
Public Supply	11
TOTAL	1,152

¹ DWR SGMA Data Viewer – Well Report Statistics in Paso Robles Subbasin; downloaded on June 26, 2018.

Figure 3-7 through Figure 3-9 show the density of wells in the Subbasin by their types of use. These DWR data used to develop these maps are not necessarily the same set of well data held by the County of San Luis Obispo. DWR data were used to develop maps of well densities because they are organized for easy mapping of well density per square mile. These maps should be considered representative of well distributions, but not definitive.

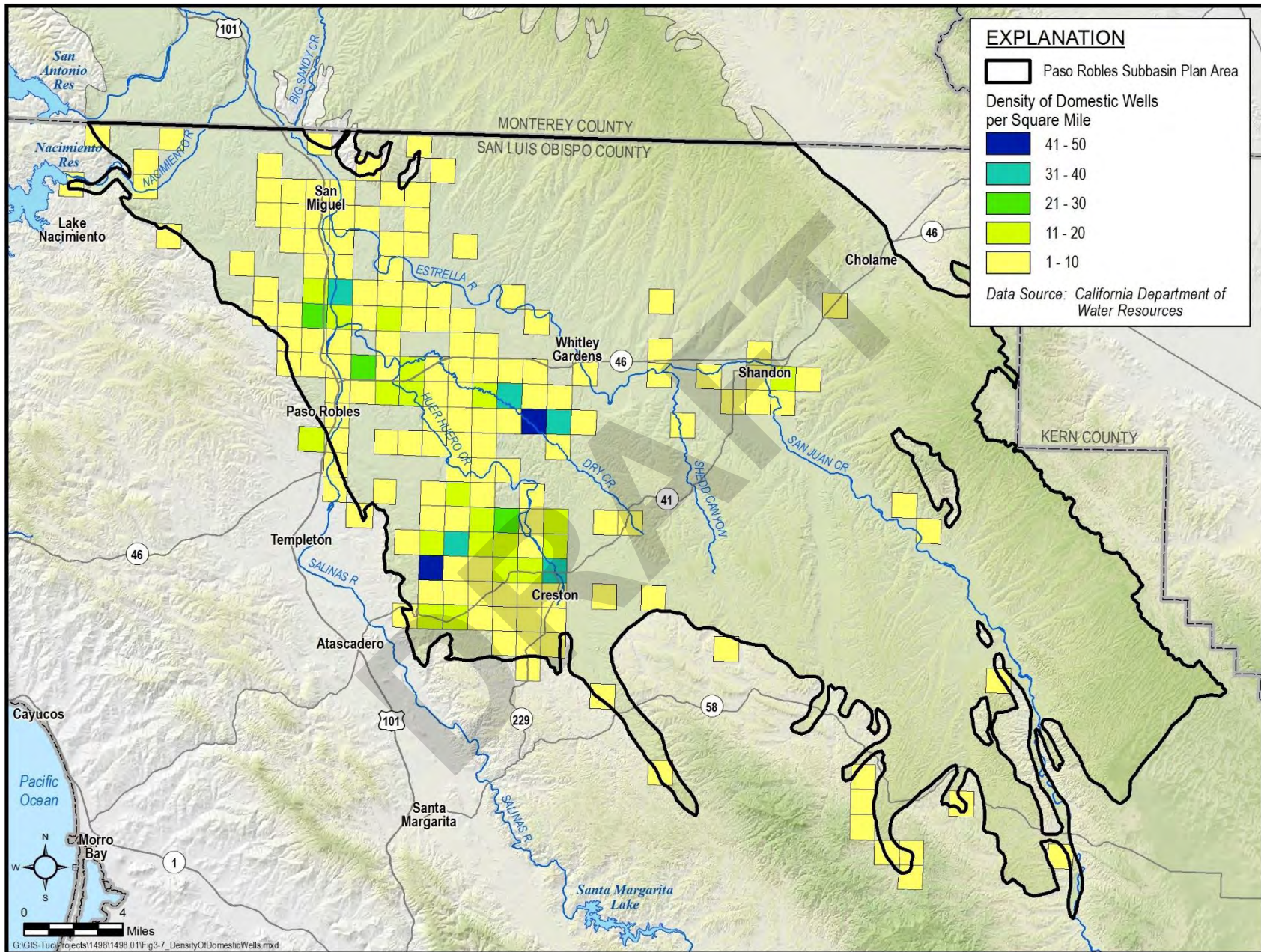


Figure 3-7: Density of Domestic Wells per Square Mile

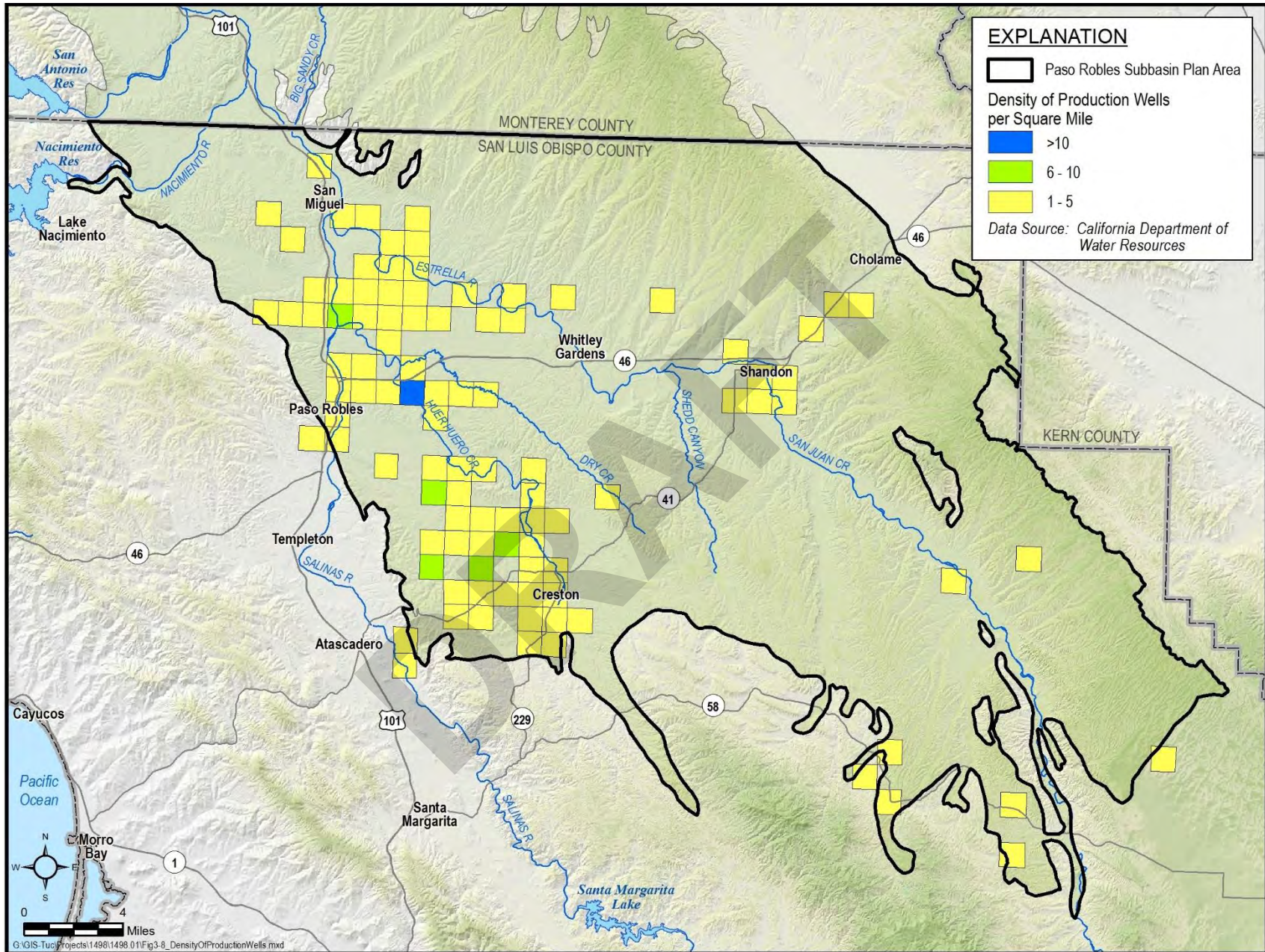


Figure 3-8: Density of Production Wells per Square Mile

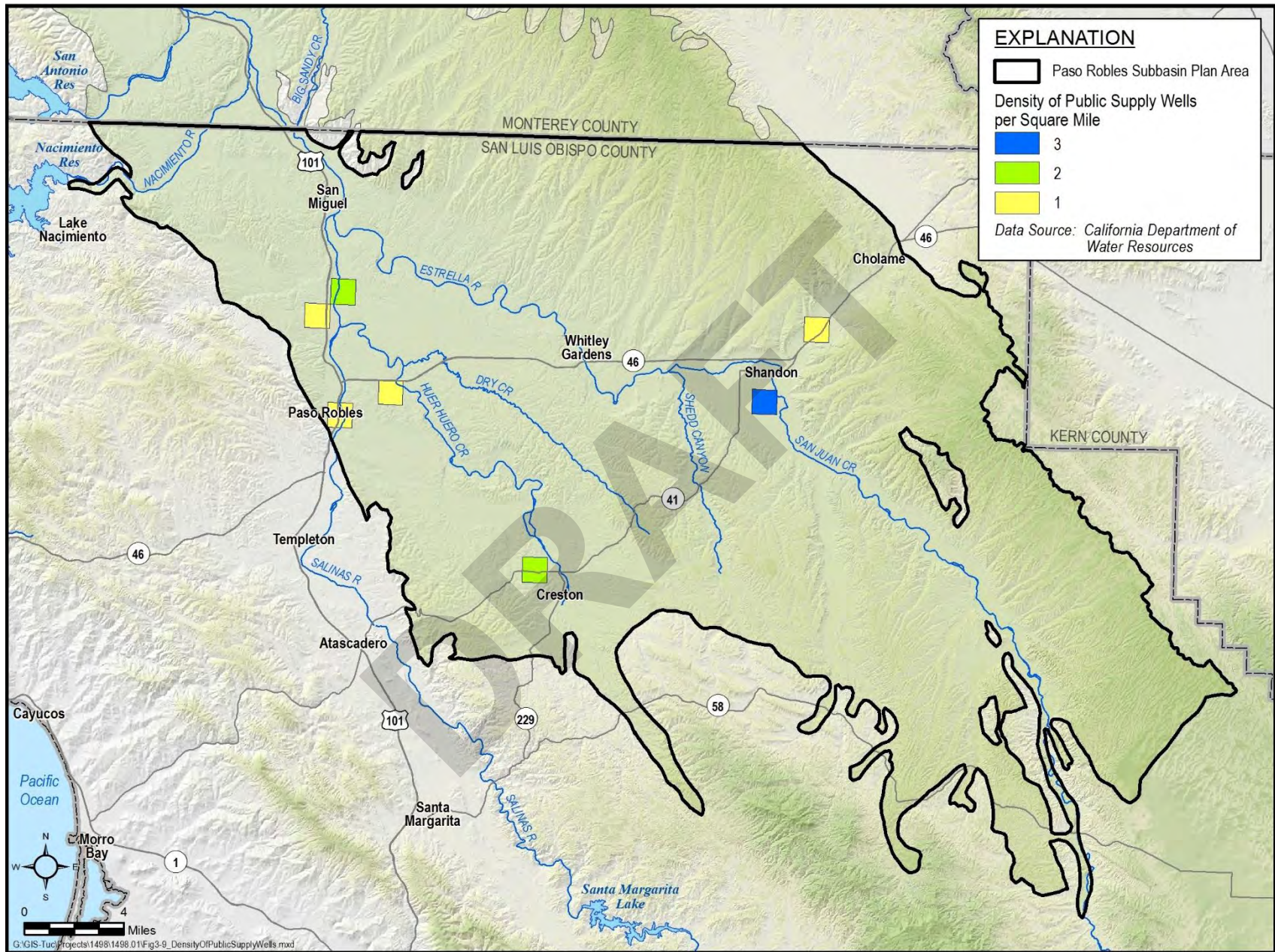


Figure 3-9: Density of Public Water Supply Wells per Square Mile

3.6 EXISTING MONITORING PROGRAMS

3.6.1 GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING

The SLOFCWCD has been monitoring groundwater levels county-wide on a semi-annual basis for more than 50 years to support general planning and for engineering purposes. Groundwater level measurements are taken once in the spring and once in the fall. The monitoring takes place from a voluntary network of wells. The voluntary monitoring network has changed over time as access to wells has been lost or new wells have been added to the network.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) monitors groundwater levels at two monitoring wells in the Basin. The two wells in the Paso Robles Subbasin only have one measurement, collected in November 2017. The frequency for monitoring is given as “periodic” so the frequency is unknown at this time.

Routine monitoring of groundwater levels is conducted by the County in the Subbasin. Figure 3-10 shows the locations of monitor wells in the County’s database that are designated as public and the locations of monitor wells reported to the state’s California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) system. The monitoring network also includes a number of other wells in the Plan Area that are designated as private that are not shown on this map. Additional evaluation of the current monitoring program will be conducted for the GSP to establish a representative monitoring network of public and private wells that will be used during plan implementation to track groundwater elevations and ensure that minimum thresholds have not been exceeded.

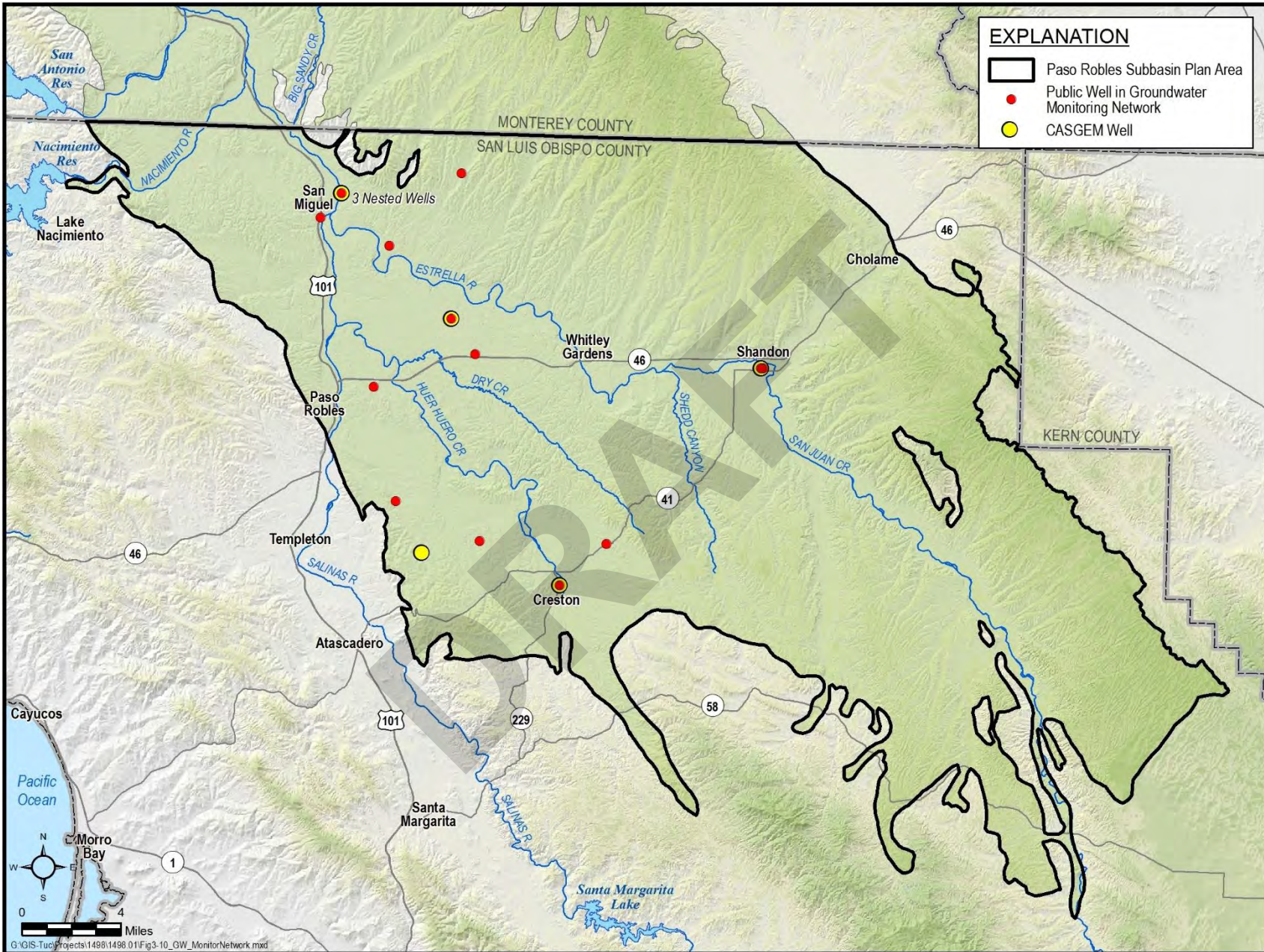


Figure 3-10: Public Wells in the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network

3.6.2 GROUNDWATER QUALITY MONITORING

Groundwater quality is monitored under several different programs and by different agencies including:

- Municipal and community water purveyors must collect water quality samples on a routine basis for compliance monitoring and reporting to the California Division of Drinking Water.
- The USGS collects water quality data on a routine basis under the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) program. These data are stored in the State's GAMA/Geotracker system.
- The State Water Resource Control Board's 2009 Recycled Water Policy required the development of Salt Nutrient Management Plans for groundwater basins in California. This plan was developed in 2015 for the Paso Robles Subbasin (RMC, 2015).
- There are multiple sites that are monitoring groundwater quality as part of investigation or compliance monitoring programs through the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Figure 3-11 shows the location of wells in the State's GAMA Geotracker database. The USGS monitors groundwater quality at two monitoring wells in the Subbasin. Only one sample has been collected (in 2017) from each of the wells. The monitoring frequency is unknown at this time.

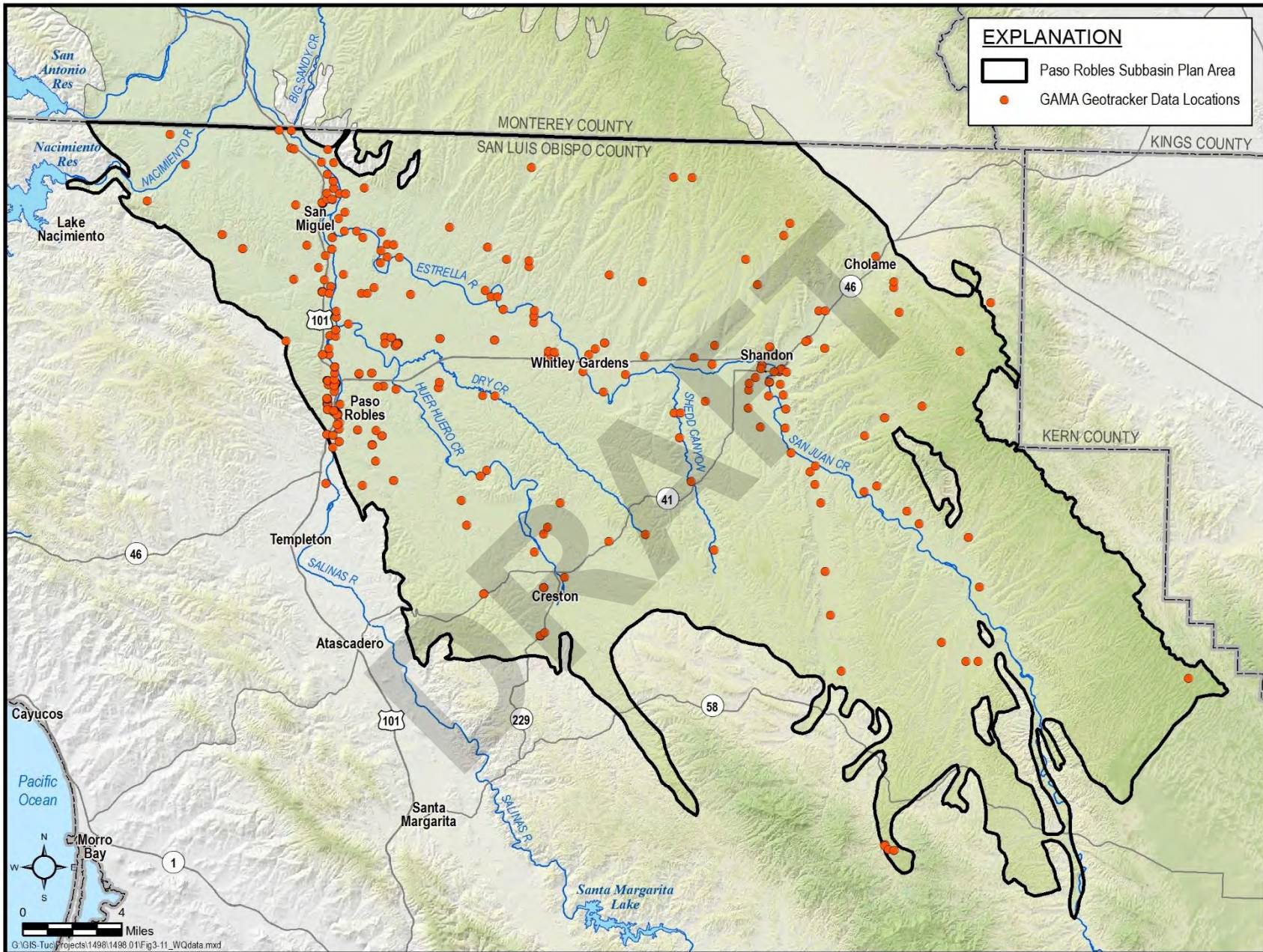


Figure 3-11: Groundwater Quality Monitoring Well Locations

3.6.3 SURFACE WATER MONITORING

Stream gauges have historically been maintained and monitored by the USGS and the SLOFCWCD. Data are stored electronically in National Water Information System (NWIS) files and are retrievable from the USGS Water Resources Internet site.

The SLOFCWCD also stores electronic stream gauge data. There are various SLOFCWCD stream gauges surrounding the Subbasin, but no SLOFCWCD stream gauges lie within the Subbasin. Of the USGS stream gauges with historical data, only three gauges are currently active in the Subbasin:

- Salinas River above the City of Paso Robles,
- Estrella River near Estrella,
- Nacimiento River below the Nacimiento Dam near Bradley,

A fourth stream gauge, the Salinas River gauge, lies at the base of Santa Margarita dam upstream of the Subbasin. This gauge is important for this GSP because it provides estimates of the streamflow released towards the Subbasin. Figure 3-12 shows the locations of the three active stream gauges in the Subbasin and the one County gauge upstream of the Subbasin. These three stream gauges in the study area report daily average stream flows.

3.6.4 CLIMATE MONITORING

Climate data are measured at seven stations located in the Subbasin. Data from these seven stations were obtained from the SLOFCWCD. The locations of the stations are shown on Figure 3-12. Table 3-3 summarizes the long-term averages at the Paso Robles Station. Average annual precipitation at this station varies from 6.2 to 33.2 inches. Figure 3-13 displays the long-term precipitation record at the Paso Robles station.

The Paso Robles precipitation station measures daily temperatures in addition to rainfall. The California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) station number 163 in Atascadero measures a number of climatic factors that allow a calculation of daily reference evapotranspiration for the area. Table 3-4 provides a summary of average monthly rainfall, temperature, and reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) for the Basin.

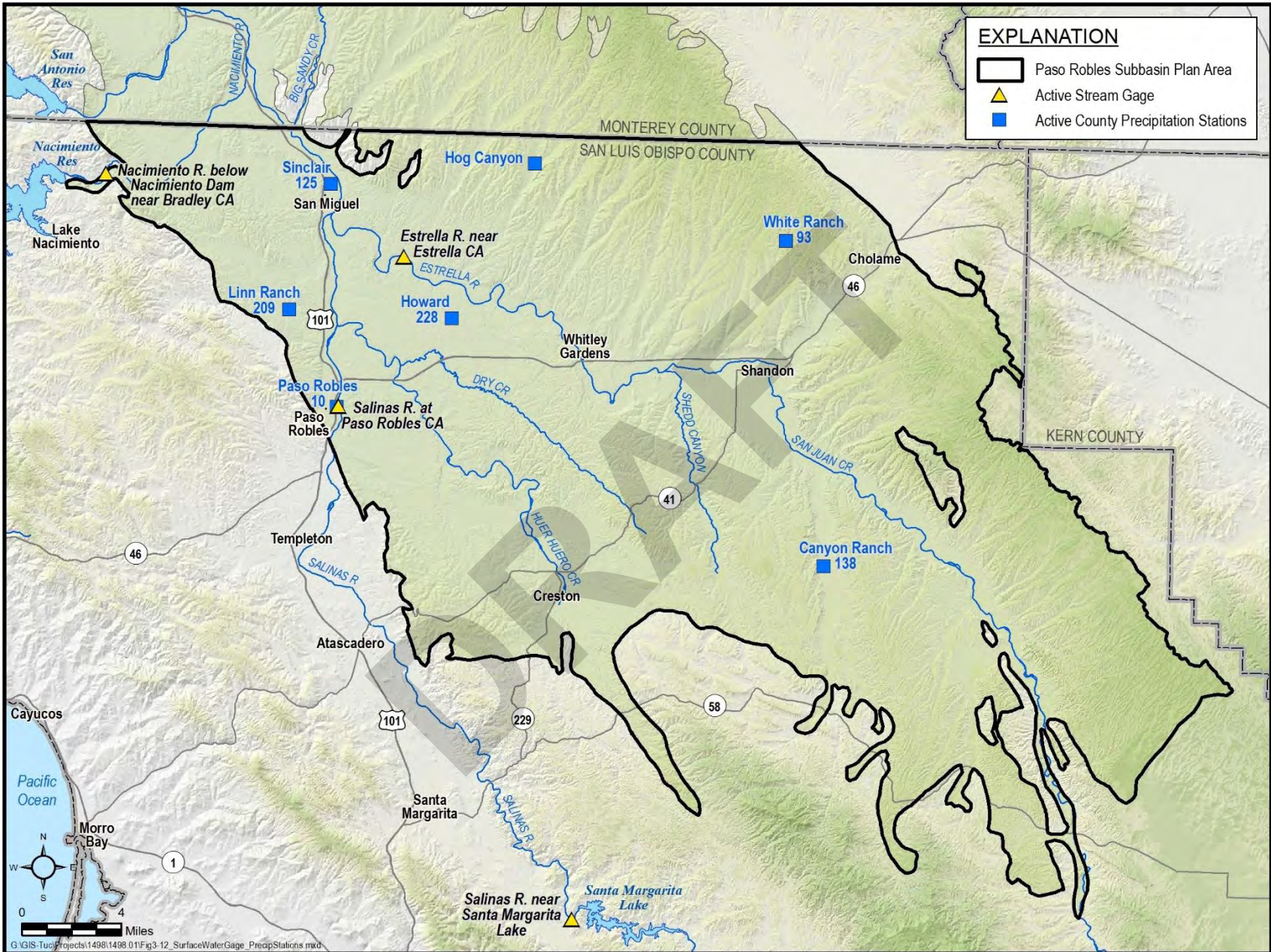


Figure 3-12: Surface Water Gauging and Precipitation Stations

Table 3-3: Precipitation Measurements at the Paso Robles Climate Station from 1989 to 2017

Water Year	Precipitation at Paso Robles ^a Station ID: 046730 (inches)
1989	9.5
1990	7.2
1991	13.9
1992	14.4
1993	26.4
1994	11.5
1995	29.9
1996	13.8
1997	17.6
1998	26.8
1999	9.4
2000	13.2
2001	15.4
2002	8.3
2003	13.8
2004	9.5
2005	33.2
2006	18.3
2007	6.6
2008	13.8
2009	9.1
2010	21.0
2011	22.0
2012	10.8
2013	7.2
2014	6.2
2015	12.4
2016	10.5
2017	23.8
Minimum	6.2
Maximum	33.2
Average	15.0

WWTP = Wastewater Treatment Plant

Data Sources:

^a NOAA NCDC <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/search>

^b NOAA NCDC Beta Release Data <ftp://ftp.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/hpd/auto/v2/beta/>

^c San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works

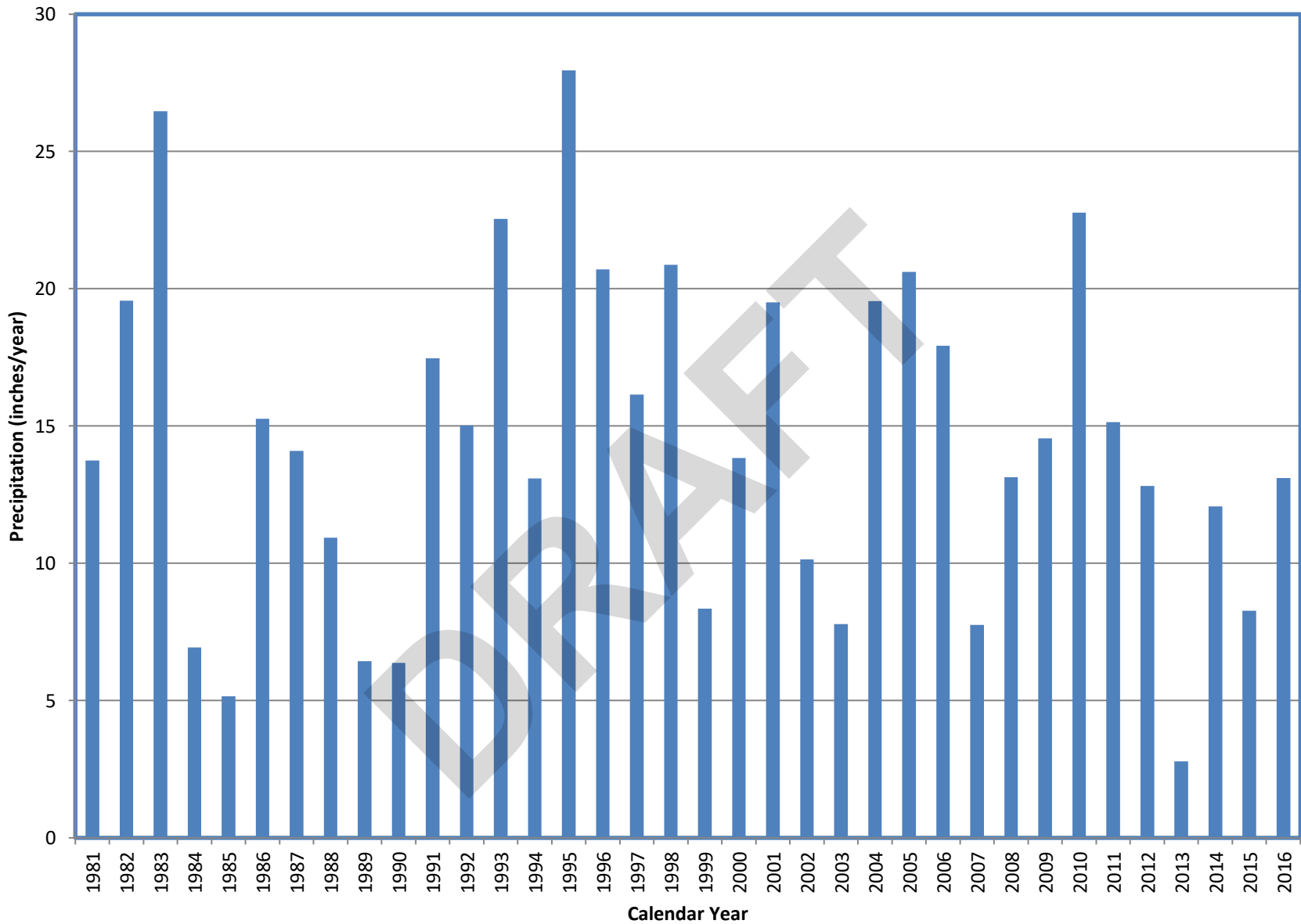


Figure 3-13: Annual Precipitation at the Paso Robles Station.

Table 3-4: Average Monthly Climate Summary

Month	Average Rainfall (inches) ^a	Average ET _o (inches) ^b	Average Daily Temperature (F°) ^c
January	3.4	1.7	46.7
February	3.1	2.1	49.6
March	2.6	3.6	54.0
April	0.8	4.7	57.4
May	0.4	6.5	61.5
June	0.0	7.5	68.6
July	0.1	8.0	70.8
August	0.0	7.2	70.5
September	0.2	5.6	68.4
October	0.9	3.7	60.9
November	1.0	2.3	51.2
December	2.4	1.4	45.2
Monthly Average	1.2	4.5	-
Average Calendar Year ^d	15.0	54.5	58.7
^a Average of monthly precipitation at Paso Robles Station 046730 for Jan 1989-Dec 2017 (NOAA NCDC).			
^b ET _o = Average of monthly evapotranspiration at Paso Robles Station PR-1 for Jan 1989 through Dec 2017. PR-1 is operated by Western Weather Group. Data prior to Jan 2010 was compiled by Geoscience Support Services, Inc.			
^c Average daily temperature at Paso Robles Station (PR-1) for Jan 2010 through Dec 2017.			
^d Average Calendar Year is not the sum of monthly averages, but rather a historical annual average over the period of record.			

3.6.4.1 INCORPORATING EXISTING MONITORING PROGRAMS INTO THE GSP

The existing monitoring programs and monitoring networks constitute a well-developed and broadly distributed system that provides representative data throughout the Subbasin. The groundwater elevation monitoring programs are conducted by two of the five GSAs that are cooperatively developing this GSP, and therefore will be incorporated into the GSP monitoring plan. The existing groundwater level monitoring programs will be updated and improved to document the avoidance of undesirable results in each significant aquifer in the Subbasin.

The current water quality monitoring program for from the production wells will be incorporated into this GSP to demonstrate that groundwater quality undesirable results do not occur based on data from a representative number of production wells. The existing stream gauges will also be incorporated into this GSP monitoring plan to validate our projections of surface water depletions from pumping.

This section to be completed after GSP is complete.

3.6.4.2 LIMITS TO OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

The existing monitoring programs are not anticipated to limit the operational flexibility of this GSP.

3.7 EXISTING MANAGEMENT PLANS

There are multiple groundwater and water management plans that cover the Subbasin. These plans are described in the following subsections, along with brief descriptions of how they relate to the management of current water supply, projected water supplies, and land use.

3.7.1 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (2011)

The City of Paso Robles and its partnering agencies developed a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) (GEI, 2011) that is compliant with AB3030 and SB1938 legislation. The plan covered both the Atascadero and Paso Robles Subbasins but excluded the area between the San Juan and San Andreas Faults. **Appendix B** contains a copy of the plan.

The GMP included a list of 73 groundwater management activities that could be implemented in the Subbasin. The groundwater management activities were grouped into various categories including stakeholder involvement, monitoring and data collection, resource protection, sustainability, and water management. The plan included an implementation schedule and a requirement for periodic updates.

3.7.2 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY MASTER WATER REPORT (2012)

The County's Master Water Report (MWR) (Carollo, 2012) is a compilation of the current and future water resource management activities being undertaken by various entities within the County and is organized by Water Planning Areas (WPA). The MWR explores how these activities interrelate, analyzes current and future supplies and demands, identifies future

water management strategies and ways to optimize existing strategies, and documents the role of the MWR in supporting other water resource planning efforts. The MWR evaluates and compares the available water supplies to the water demands for the different water planning areas. This was accomplished by reviewing or developing the following:

- Current water supplies and demands based on available information
- Forecast water demands and water supplies available in the future under current land use policies and designations
- Criteria under which there is a shortfall when looking at supplies versus demands
- Criteria for analyzing potential water resource management strategies, projects, programs, or policies
- Potential water resource management strategies, projects, programs, or policies to resolve potential supply deficiencies.

3.7.3 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY REGION INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (2014)

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was initially developed and adopted by the SLOFCWCD in 2005 (GEI Consultants, 2005), and has been updated several times. The 2014 IRWMP (San Luis Obispo County, 2014) included goals and objectives that provide the basis for decision-making and are used to evaluate project benefits. The goals and objectives reflect input from interested stakeholders on the region's major water resources issues.

The SLOFCWCD, in cooperation with the SLOFCWCD's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), prepared the IRWMP to align the County's water resources management planning efforts with the State's planning efforts. The IRWMP is used to support the Region's water resource management planning and submittal of grant applications to fund these efforts. The IRWMP integrated 19 different water management strategies that have or will have a role in protecting the region's water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystems, groundwater, and flood management objectives. The integration of these strategies resulted in a list of action items (projects, programs, and studies) needed to implement the IRWMP. The IRWMP the Plan is currently being updated with a DWR submittal target date of December 2018,

3.7.4 SALT AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN (2015)

The City of Paso Robles, along with the City of Atascadero, San Miguel CSD, Templeton CSD, Heritage Ranch CSD, County of San Luis Obispo, and Camp Roberts, prepared a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Subbasin in accordance with State's 2009 Recycled Water Policy (RMC, 2015).

In the SNMP, baseline groundwater quality conditions were established as a framework under which salt and nutrient issues can be managed, and to streamline the permitting process of new recycled water projects while meeting water quality objectives and protecting beneficial uses. The SNMP will eventually be used by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) to aid in the management of basin groundwater quality.

3.7.5 CITY OF PASO ROBLES URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (2016)

The Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) (Todd Groundwater, 2016) describes the City's current and future water demands, identifies current water supply sources, and assesses supply reliability for the City. The UWMP describes the City's reliance on groundwater and its support for efforts to avoid overdraft by developing additional sources. The UWMP provides a forecast of future growth, water demand and water sources for the City through 2035. These sources include water conservation, surface water from Lake Nacimiento, and the use of recycled water for irrigation. The UWMP identifies beneficial impacts to groundwater quality through the use of these sources.

3.8 EXISTING GROUNDWATER REGULATORY PROGRAMS

The following regulatory programs are not formal management plans, but may influence groundwater management or guide the development of Sustainable Management Criteria.

3.8.1 SALINAS RIVER LIVE STREAM REQUIREMENTS (SWRCB, 1972)

In 1972, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued a decision regarding the storage of water at Salinas Reservoir in order to protect vested downstream rights. The decision presumed that downstream rights would be met if a visible surface flow (i.e., a "live" stream) existed in the Salinas River between the Salinas Reservoir and the confluence with the Nacimiento River. If there was no live stream, then total daily inflow to the Salinas Reservoir was to be released to pass downstream.

The Live Stream Agreement was first implemented in 1972 using flow at the stream gauge on the Salinas River near the City of Paso Robles as an indicator of “live” stream conditions. In 1976, a set of six observation points was established to determine “visible surface flow”. A seventh observation point, located immediately upstream of the Graves Creek confluence, was added in 1978. It is this seventh point that has always been the first point to go dry, triggering the live stream release period.

3.8.2 GROUNDWATER EXPORT ORDINANCE (2015)

In 2015, the County of San Luis Obispo passed an Exportation of Groundwater ordinance that requires a permit for the export of groundwater out of a groundwater basin or out of the County. An export permit is only approved if the Department of Public Works Director or his/her designee finds that moving the water would not have any adverse impacts to groundwater resources, such as causing aquifer levels to drop, disrupting the flow of neighboring wells or resulting in seawater intrusion. Export permits are only valid for one year.

3.8.3 COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO WATER DEMAND OFFSET ORDINANCE (2015)

In October 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Ordinance and Resolution 2015-288. The Ordinance limited new or expanded irrigated agriculture in areas within the Subbasin except by offset of existing irrigated agriculture either on the same property or on a different property in the Subbasin. The ordinance also identified areas of severe decline in groundwater elevation and properties overlying these areas would be further restricted from planting new or expanding irrigated agriculture except for those converting irrigated agriculture on the same property into a different crop type. Resolution 2015-288 established the Countywide Water Conservation Program (CWWCP). The CWWCP helps to substantially reduce increases in groundwater extraction in areas that have been certified Level of Severity (LOS) III.

3.8.4 AGRICULTURAL ORDER (RWQCB, 2017)

In 2017 the CCRWQCB issued Agricultural Order No. R3-2017-0002, a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Agricultural Order). The permit requires that growers implement practices to reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater and improve surface receiving water quality. Specific requirements for individual growers are structured into three tiers based on the relative risk their operations pose to water quality.

Growers must enroll, pay fees, and meet various monitoring and reporting requirements according to the tier to which they are assigned. All growers are required to implement groundwater monitoring, either individually or as part of a cooperative regional monitoring program. Growers electing to implement individual monitoring (i.e., not participating in the regional monitoring program implemented by the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition or CCGC) are required to test all on-farm domestic wells and the primary irrigation supply well for nitrate or nitrate plus nitrite, and general minerals (including, but not limited to, TDS, sodium, chloride and sulfate).

3.8.4.1 WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL COAST BASINS (SWRCB, 2017)

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) was most recently updated in September 2017. The objective of the Basin Plan is to outline how the quality of the surface water and groundwater in the Central Coast Region should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible.

The Basin Plan lists beneficial users, describes the water quality which must be maintained to allow those uses, provides an implementation plan, details SWRCB and CCRWQCB plans and polices to protect water quality and a statewide surveillance and monitoring program as well as regional surveillance and monitoring programs.

Present and potential future beneficial uses for inland waters in the Basin are: surface water and groundwater as municipal supply (water for community, military or individual water supplies); agricultural; groundwater recharge; recreational water contact and non-contact; sport fishing; warm fresh water habitat; wildlife habitat; rare, threatened or endangered species; and, spawning, reproduction, and/or early development of fish.

Water Quality Objectives for both groundwater (drinking water and irrigation) and surface water are provided in the Basin Plan.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) requirements have been developed for Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Alternative Implementation Program for the Cholame Creek Watershed and Lower San Antonio River Subwatershed in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties. A TMDL for boron in the Estrella River Subwatershed, San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties has also been developed. A TDML for to the Upper Salinas River has not been developed.

The Basin Plan identified actions to be implemented in the Basin, including:

- Dischargers along the Salinas River should remain as separate treatment facilities with land disposal to evaporation/percolation systems and land application (irrigation)

systems where possible. Disposal should be managed to provide maximum nitrogen reduction (e.g., through crop irrigation or wet and dry cycle percolation).

- The City of Paso Robles owns and operates a nominal 5 mgd secondary wastewater treatment plant. Treated wastewater is discharged to the Salinas River channel. Beneficial use of reclaimed water should be investigated and implemented, if feasible.
- The City of Paso Robles also owns and operates the wastewater facility serving the California Youth Authority and Paso Robles Airport. Wastewater from the California Youth Authority is currently treated at the City of Paso Robles' WWTP. This wastewater is part of the Recycled Water project that is currently in construction.

3.8.4.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW WELLS

In October, 2017, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 252 which became effective on January 1, 2018. SB 252 requires well permit applicants in critically overdrafted basins to include information about the proposed well, such as location, depth, and pumping capacity. The bill also requires the permitting agency to make the information easily accessible to the public and the GSAs.

3.8.4.3 TITLE 22 DRINKING WATER PROGRAM (SWRCB)

The SWRCB Division of Drinking Water (DDW) regulates public water systems in the State to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water to the public. A public water system is defined as a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Private domestic wells, wells associated with drinking water systems with less than 15 residential service connections, industrial and irrigation wells are not regulated by the DDW.

The SWRCB-DDW enforces the monitoring requirements established in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) for public water system wells, and all the data collected must be reported to the DDW. Title 22 also designates the regulatory limits (e.g., maximum contaminant levels [MCLs]) for various waterborne contaminants, including volatile organic compounds, non-volatile synthetic organic compounds, inorganic chemicals, radionuclides, disinfection byproducts, general physical constituents, and other parameters.

3.8.4.4 INCORPORATION INTO GSP

Information in these various plans have been incorporated into this GSP and used during the preparation of Sustainability Goals, when setting Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives and were considered during development of Projects and Management Actions.

This section to be completed after GSP is complete.

3.8.4.5 LIMITS TO OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

Some of the existing management plans and ordinances will limit operational flexibility. These limits to operational flexibility have already been incorporated into the sustainability projects and programs included in this GSP. Examples of limits on operational flexibility include:

- The Groundwater Export Ordinance prevents export of water out of the Subbasin. This is likely not a significant limitation because exporting water out of the Subbasin hinders sustainability.
- The Basin Plan and the Title 22 Drinking Water Program restrict the quality of water that can be recharged into the Subbasin.

This section to be completed after GSP is complete.

3.9 CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAMS

There are no active conjunctive use programs currently operating within the Subbasin.

3.10 LAND USE PLANS

The County of San Luis Obispo, the City of Paso Robles and Camp Roberts have land use authority. The five GSAs do not have land use authority. Land use is an important factor in water management as described below. The following sections provide a general description of these land use plans and how implementation may affect groundwater.

3.10.1 CITY OF PASO ROBLES GENERAL PLAN (2011)

The City of Paso Robles General Plan is the fundamental land use policy document of the City of Paso Robles. The City's General Plan was developed to address several areas within the City's Planning Area; which includes areas defined as City Limits, the Sphere of Influence, and the Planning Impact Area. The City's General Plan defines the framework by which the City's physical and economic resources are to be managed and used in the future. This City General Plan has a planning horizon of 2025.

Present City policy recommends that residential growth be managed toward a target population of 44,000 in 2025. Most growth is anticipated to occur within the existing City

limits where services and public facilities are available. Additional growth is likely to occur in the urban area east of the Salinas River, but minor annexations to the City would be necessary in order to fully develop at the densities recommended in the City's General Plan.

3.10.2 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN (2014)

The County of San Luis Obispo General Plan contains three pertinent elements that are related to land use and water supply. Pertinent sections include:

- Land Use Element
- Agricultural Element
- Inland Area Plans Element

The County General Plan also contains programs which are specific, non-mandatory actions or policies recommended by the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) to achieve community or area wide objectives. Implementing each LUCE program is the responsibility of the County or other public agency that is identified in the program. Because programs are recommended actions rather than mandatory requirements, implementation of any program by the County should be based on consideration of community needs and substantial community support for the program and its related cost.

The LUCE, adopted in 2014, consolidates and reorganizes the former Adelaida, El Pomar-Estrella, Las Pilitas, Nacimiento, and Salinas River planning areas, and the northern portions of the Los Padres and Shandon-Carrizo planning areas, into a single watershed-based planning area called the North County planning area. The Planning Area does not conform to the Subbasin boundaries but does provide a general representation of the land use in the area. Figure 3-14 is copied from the County General Plan and shows the planning area.

Article 9 and Article 10 of the LUCE incorporates a number of community plans that were developed for the communities in the Subbasin. These include the Creston Village Plan, the Heritage Ranch Village Plan, the North County Villages Plan, the San Miguel Community Plan, and the Shandon Community Plan.

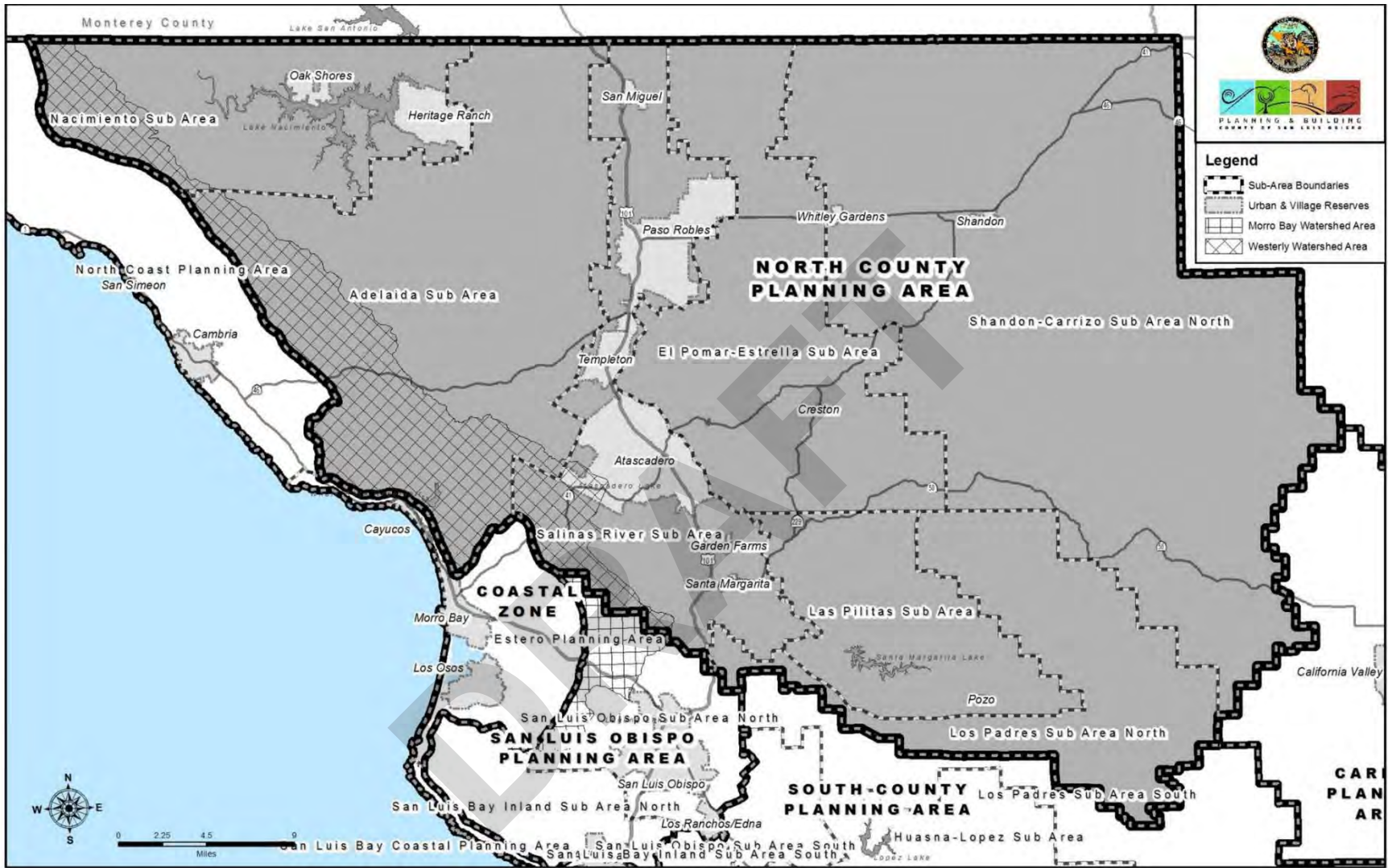


Figure 3-14: North County Planning Subareas

The County General Plan identifies land use types and acres within the North County planning area. The data from the 2014 update are summarized on Table 3-5.

Table 3-5: Land Use Acreage

Table 4-1: Rural North County Planning Area Land Use by Sub-area (acres) ¹								
Land Use Category	Adelaida	El Pomar-Estrella	Las Pilitas	Los Padres North	Nacimiento	Salinas River	Shandon ²	Total
Agriculture	152,715	104,762	21,270	11,613	36,049	52,954	348,569	727,932
Rural Lands	26,711	14,613	3,528	21,133	31,334	7,945	3,941	109,205
Recreation	277	0	460	0	2,725	664	0	4,126
Open Space	1,352	0	3,520	74,943	9,954	13,630	1,421	104,820
Residential Rural	77	11,816	625	0	2,363	5,530	170	20,581
Residential Suburban	0	363	0	0	0	82	0	445
Residential Single Family	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
Residential Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Retail	0	0	8	0	0	5	3	16
Commercial Service	0	0	0	0	0	87	3	90
Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
Public Facilities	26,146	2	0	0	0	86	0	26,234
Dalidio Ranch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	207,278	131,556	29,411	107,689	82,425	81,025	354,107	993,491

¹Acreage quantities are current as of the last major update to each of the former North County area plans (refer to Table 1-1).

²Northern half of the former Shandon-Carrizo planning area.

Projected growth in the planning subareas in the Subbasin as defined in the County General Plan includes:

- The City of Paso Robles population in 1995 was estimated to be 21,539, or 15.9 percent above the population of 18,138 in 1990, increasing at an average annual growth rate of 3.1 percent.
- The Shandon sub-area outside of CSA 16 will likely experience limited population growth, related only to future increased demands for agricultural labor
- Population in the Adelaida sub-area has been steadily increasing, but slower than the county as a whole. This pattern will likely continue, declining slightly as countywide growth also declines.
- The Las Pilitas sub-area's present population is estimated to be 1,101. Since the sub-area contains no urban areas, a large population increase is not expected. Population growth in the Las Pilitas sub-area has been slightly less than 2 percent per year and is expected to slowly decline as the countywide growth rate also declines.

The SLO County Planning Department estimated potential water demands from rural residential areas in the County. They assumed that a reasonable ultimate build-out equates to development of 75 percent of all possible parcels currently zoned for rural residential areas. This would result in a rural residential demand of just over 37,000 AFY. This estimate includes small community water systems. If ultimate build-out occurred by 2025, the annual growth rate would be an unrealistic 12.8 percent. In order to determine the demand in 2025, a growth rate of 2.3 percent per year was assumed. As a result, the County estimated rural residential pumping in 2025 will be 16,504 AF, which is 44 percent of ultimate build-out.

3.10.3 CAMP ROBERTS LAND USE STUDY

This section to be completed after GSP is complete.

Located north of the City of Paso Robles and spanning nearly 43,000 acres, Camp Roberts is one of the state's three main training bases for the California National Guard and trains more than 15,000 guardsmen in a typical year.

3.10.4 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTS ON EXISTING LAND USE

This section to be completed after GSP is complete.

3.10.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION EFFECTS ON WATER SUPPLY

This section to be completed after GSP is complete.

3.10.6 LAND USE PLANS OUTSIDE OF BASIN

The stakeholders submitting this GSP have not included information regarding the implementation of land use plans outside the subbasins, as these adjacent subbasins are also required to implement SGMA and their GSPs will require them to achieve sustainable groundwater management.