



## Notice of Preparation Environmental Impact Report

To:

Interested Parties

From:

County of San Luis Obispo  
976 Osos Street Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

**CEQA Lead Agency:**

County of San Luis Obispo  
976 Osos Street Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
Contact: Kylie Hensley, Planner  
Phone: (805) 781-4979  
Email: [khensley@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:khensley@co.slo.ca.us)

**Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report for the Paso Basin Land Use Planning Ordinance (County File LRP2021-00001)**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of San Luis Obispo (County), as CEQA Lead Agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. The County is soliciting information from all responsible and trustee agencies, all other public agencies with jurisdiction by law with respect to the project, as well as public input regarding the topics and alternatives that should be included in the EIR.

The County has prepared an Initial Study for the project, which identifies potentially significant environmental impacts to be assessed in the EIR, and is available on the project website: [www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Grid-Items/Community-Engagement/Active-Planning-Projects/Paso-Basin-Land-Use-Ordinance.aspx](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Grid-Items/Community-Engagement/Active-Planning-Projects/Paso-Basin-Land-Use-Ordinance.aspx).

**30-DAY SCOPING PERIOD: August 12 – September 13, 2021**

Please send any comments relative to the scoping of the EIR analysis within 30 days of this NOP publication date (by September 13, 2021) to Kylie Hensley, Planner, at the contact information shown above.

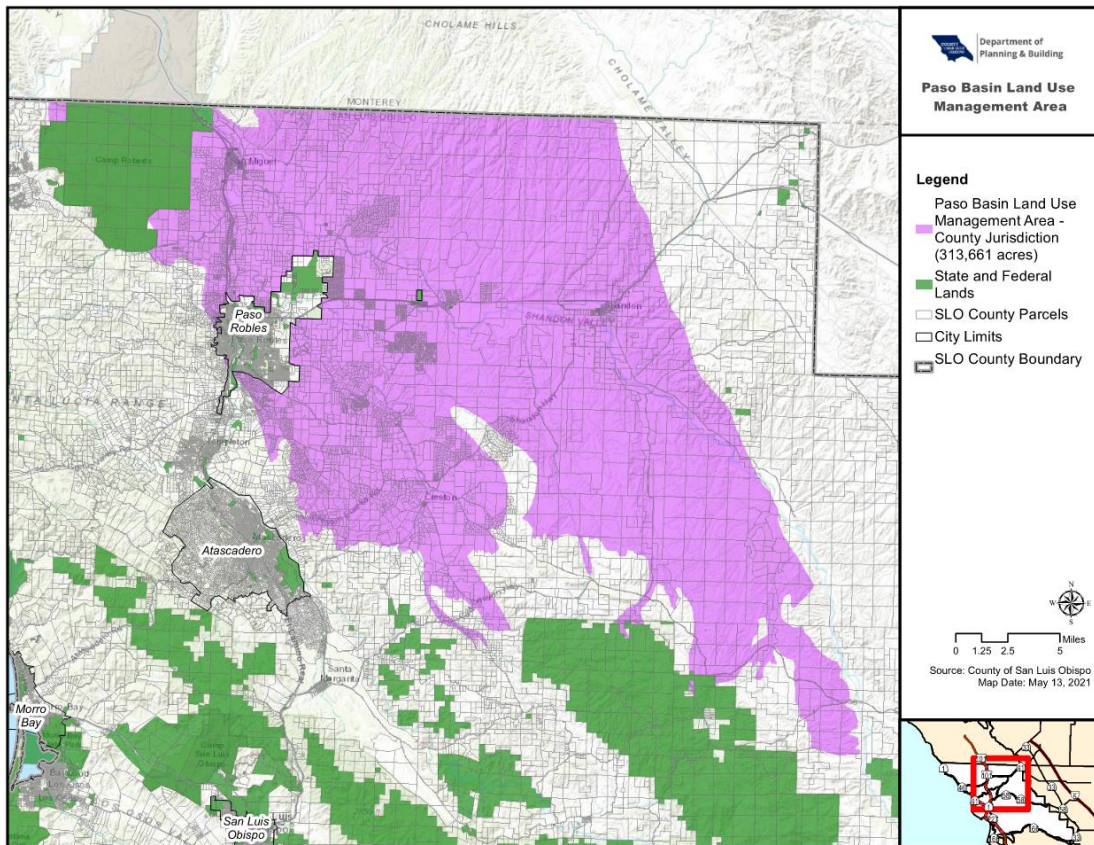
**VIRTUAL SCOPING MEETING: September 1, 2021 at 6:00-7:30PM**

The proposed project may have statewide, regional, or areawide significance; therefore a CEQA scoping meeting is required pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21083.9(a)(2) and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(c)(1). A virtual CEQA scoping meeting will be held by teleconference and by telephone on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 6:00-7:30PM. To join,

- Visit <https://zoom.us/join> or call [669-900-9128](tel:669-900-9128), and
- Enter the **Meeting ID: 898 9088 1384**.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has directed staff to develop a land use ordinance and amend General Plan policies to require ministerial land use approval (“a planting permit”) until 2045 for new or expanded planting of irrigated crops irrigated with water from groundwater wells located within the Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (see attached map), with a two-tier framework: 1) plantings using up to 25 acre-feet per year (AFY) of total groundwater per site, and 2) plantings maintaining neutral groundwater use on site with a 6-year rolling lookback period. Plantings using groundwater outside of these two tiers would not be allowed. General Plan elements to be revised include the Agricultural Element and Conservation and Open Space Element.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Paso Basin Land Use Management Area includes 313,661 acres located within the County’s jurisdiction in the North County Planning Area and includes the communities of Shandon, San Miguel, Creston, and Whitley Gardens. The area is shown in the map below. **A larger GIS version of the map with USGS information is available at the project website listed above.**



The County appreciates your attention to this NOP.

**Project Title:** Paso Basin Land Use Planting Ordinance  
**Project Applicant:** County of San Luis Obispo

Date: August 9, 2021

Signature: /s/ Kylie Hensley  
 Kylie Hensley, Planner