

Exhibit C

Blue Ribbon steering Committee Recommendation Letters



**Paso Robles Groundwater  
Basin  
Steering Committee**

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April 23, 2013

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

The management of our water resources is a high priority for the Board of Supervisors, Municipal and Private water providers, Agriculturists and Rural Residential water users.

On March 27, 2012 the Board of Supervisors recognized The Blue Ribbon Committee for the implementation of the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan as the appropriate group of stakeholders.

The Committee immediately created a strategic approach to implementing the Plan by developing a prioritized Task List as the base functional document and strategy. The basic implementation plan was based on a series of short term and long term tasks and goals that highlight data collection, education and outreach, engineering modeling, and Solutions.

Throughout the last year the Committee has worked in four areas:

- Data collection

It was apparent that the collection and analysis of data was of fundamental importance. The Committee determined that the best way to expand the database was to engage in a personal outreach effort to target areas lacking in data and contact property owners to request their participation in well level monitoring. As a result of personal outreach there was a significant increase in well level monitoring participation, with particular success in the targeted areas. This will provide the base data for the effective modeling of the Basin Solutions.

**Mission Statement**

*"The Steering Committee will coordinate with stakeholders to implement the Groundwater Management Plan to ensure the health of the basin"*

- Education and Outreach

The Committee prepared an outreach brochure that was mailed to over 6,000 rural residents and launched a website to educate the public and to provide access to historical technical reports, agendas, minutes and links to other resources.

- Engineering Modeling

The Committee assisted County Staff in preparing a scope of work and securing grant money for the modeling effort.

- Solutions

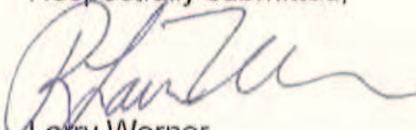
The Solutions Committee spent hundreds of man-hours assembling a comprehensive list of potential solutions for the stabilization of the groundwater basin. In the interest of transparency and completeness all solutions proposed by the Blue Ribbon Committee, Solutions Committee, County Staff and the public have been included in one comprehensive list, which is attached.

As the Solutions Committee was assembling and ranking the proposed Solutions it became apparent that in order to implement many of the Solutions a broad management structure would be necessary to implement the Solutions for the stabilization of the basin. To this end, the Solutions Committee prepared a recommendation to the Blue Ribbon Committee and on April 18, the Blue Ribbon Committee unanimously approved the attached recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

It is the request of the Blue Ribbon Committee that the Board of Supervisors immediately provide the necessary financial and technical support to implement a Groundwater Management District with participation of all of the stakeholders in the basin. The Committee recognizes that implementation of a District is a process that involves many steps and opportunities for public review and input.

The formation of a Groundwater Management District will take time. It is therefore the intent of the Blue Ribbon Committee to complete the ranking of the Solutions and bring viable short term and long term Solutions to the Board for consideration and potential implementation in the meantime.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Werner  
Chairman

**Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan Blue Ribbon Committee  
Solutions Recommendations  
Adopted April 18, 2013**

The Solutions Subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Committee was tasked with compiling an exhaustive list of all potential solutions for consideration for the implementation of the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan, which is attached. These potential solutions are categorized as Conservation, Supplemental Water, Recycling and Management.

With Blue Ribbon Committee concurrence, SLO County Public Works is taking the lead on evaluation of the Supplemental Water and Salinas River Management Solutions so that technical information can be developed to better vet the alternatives. As longer-term options may require immediate implementation actions, and due to the complexity of the evaluation and implementation, the technical analysis of these alternatives needs to start now.

The Solutions Subcommittee is now embarking on the task of ranking the Conservation, Supplemental Water, Recycling, and Management Solutions based on timeframe, acre-ft of water potentially provided, cost and feasibility.

In preparation for the May 7<sup>th</sup> update to the SLO County Board of Supervisors, the Solutions Subcommittee began discussion of the potential solution(s) that clearly rank the highest. The highest solution was presented to the Blue Ribbon Committee at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and unanimously approved for submittal in the report to the Board of Supervisors.

The Blue Ribbon Committee believes that the structured management of the groundwater basin is the solution that is the most crucial to the basin. The Blue Ribbon Committee believes that the management of the groundwater basin might be best served by a special district dedicated to the goals and objectives of the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan. Without management of the groundwater basin, well levels will likely continue to decline. Adoption of many short term or long term solutions requires that a management structure be in place to enable financing and implementation of those solutions.

A groundwater management structure can take several forms in order to implement the proposed solutions on the attached Solutions list. A basin-wide groundwater management district, a rural water district, and/or an irrigation district can be formed. The district(s) could have the authority to contract for water supplies, convey water, store water, contract for professional services, purchase easements, provide incentives for conservation, monitor basin level changes, and perform other services necessary to manage the groundwater basin. The intent of the district(s) would be to meet the Basin Management Objectives of stabilizing and maintaining the groundwater basin well levels. A management district is the umbrella under which comprehensive management can occur.

The groundwater management structure needs to be put into place immediately as the well level declines are escalating throughout the majority of the groundwater basin. Having a dedicated management structure with a daily focus effort on water management, there would be a mechanism to stabilize the groundwater basin levels and protect the significant economic investments of agriculturalists, municipal users, and the rural residents throughout the groundwater basin.

In order to start this process, the Blue Ribbon Committee is requesting the SLO County Board of Supervisors supports securing technical and legal advice, in coordination with other groups and individuals investigating this solution, to formulate the most feasible structure and public process to enable the formation of a Groundwater Management District.

Approved unanimously  
April 18, 2013

**The Blue Ribbon Committee additionally requested at their April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting the following:**

- Funding for help for the Flood Control and Water Conservation District staff.
- Direction and support to District staff to prepare an annual report for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin every year.
- Direction and support to District staff to update the well level hydrographs as soon as possible after each April and October well testing.

# **1. Conservation**

## **1.1 Urban – Paso Robles, Atascadero, Templeton, San Miguel**

- 1.1.1 Reduce per capita consumption to offset growth in service area.
- 1.1.2 Limit pumping to winter time water use.
- 1.1.3 Participate in California Urban Water Conservation Council policies and practices.

## **1.2 Agriculture – Irrigated Crops**

- 1.2.1 Perennial crops
  - 1.2.1.1 Vineyards
    - 1.2.1.1.1 Reduce water usage on a per acre basis.
    - 1.2.1.1.2 Identify and implement BMPs, including frost protection BMPs.
  - 1.2.1.2 Other perennial crops
    - 1.2.1.2.1 Reduce water usage on a per acre basis applicable to each crop.
    - 1.2.1.2.2 Identify and implement specific BMPs.
- 1.2.2 Annual crops
  - 1.2.2.1 Reduce water usage on a per acre basis applicable to each crop.
  - 1.2.2.2 Identify and implement specific BMPs.
- 1.2.3 Agricultural processing, including wineries
  - 1.2.3.1 Reduce water usage on a per unit basis for each type of ag processing.
  - 1.2.3.2 Identify and implement specific BMPs.
- 1.2.4 For all irrigated crops and ag processing facilities.
  - 1.2.4.1 Conduct regular outreach activities.
  - 1.2.4.2 Conduct outreach for County's groundwater level monitoring program.
  - 1.2.4.3 Identify BMPs and set targets to measure success.
  - 1.2.4.4 Install water meters on irrigation and ag processing wells.

## **1.3 Rural Residential**

- 1.3.1 Reduce water usage on a per household basis.
- 1.3.2 Identify and implement specific BMPs.
- 1.3.3 Conduct regular outreach activities.
- 1.3.4 Install water meters on domestic wells.

**1.4 Rural – Non-domestic (Golf courses, industrial, equestrian pastures, recreational, etc.)**

- 1.4.1 Reduce water usage on a per unit basis applicable to each operation.
- 1.4.2 Identify and implement specific BMPs for non-domestic uses.
- 1.4.3 Conduct regular outreach activities.
- 1.4.4 Install water meters on non-domestic wells.

**2. Supplemental Water**

**2.1 Nacimiento Water – 6,095 AFY unsubscribed and available for purchase.**

2.1.1 Expansion of current infrastructure

2.1.1.1 Urban and Urban – Non-Domestic

2.1.1.1.1 Paso Robles

2.1.1.1.1.1 Build water treatment plant to full capacity of 4,000 AFY.

2.1.1.1.1.2 Structure operations to use alluvial water first, Naci water second and basin last.

2.1.1.1.1.3 Connect the Paso Robles / Templeton system to Atascadero by installing 1,400 feet of pipe.

2.1.1.1.1.4 Increase alluvial well pumping to maximize use of Salinas River appropriation.

2.1.1.1.2 San Miguel

2.1.1.1.2.1 Develop a San Miguel turnout.

2.1.1.1.3 Atascadero

2.1.1.1.3.1 Utilize the full allocation (2,000 AFY) by fully utilizing the existing percolation ponds.

2.1.1.1.4 Templeton

2.1.1.1.4.1 Maximize the use of the full allocation.

2.1.1.1.5 All Urban

2.1.1.1.5.1 Maximize use of remaining unsubscribed allocation in other ways.

2.1.1.1.6 Monterey County

2.1.1.1.6.1 Negotiate with Monterey Co for additional Naci water to utilize full hydraulic capacity of pipeline.

- 2.1.1.2 Agriculture – Irrigated crops
  - 2.1.1.2.1 Agriculture to use Nacimiento water.
- 2.1.1.3 Rural Residential
  - 2.1.1.3.1 Wheel water through existing community systems or build infrastructure to deliver water.
- 2.1.2 Injection
  - 2.1.2.1 Implement injection where it will replenish groundwater basin.
- 2.1.3 Recharge
  - 2.1.3.1 All areas –Develop recharge basins.
- 2.1.4 Other options
  - 2.1.4.1 Develop other carryover storage options.
  - 2.1.4.2 Deliver unsubscribed allocation directly to area of concern.

## **2.2 Other water sources**

- 2.2.1 Exchanges – All areas
  - 2.2.1.1 Exchange or bank Nacimiento water with Santa Margarita Lake to benefit basin.
  - 2.2.1.2 Exchange or bank Nacimiento water with Lopez Lake to benefit basin.
  - 2.2.1.3 Exchange or bank Nacimiento water with State Water Project.
- 2.2.2 New Off / On Stream Storage
  - 2.2.2.1 Jack Creek Dam
  - 2.2.2.2 Santa Rita Creek Dam
  - 2.2.2.3 Other new dam locations
  - 2.2.2.4 Salinas Dam – Santa Margarita Lake - Raise and reinforce to increase storage.
  - 2.2.2.5 Other streams
    - 2.2.2.5.1 Alluvial flow capture (Estrella River, Huer Huero Creek, etc.)
- 2.2.3 Basin creeks
  - 2.2.3.1 Establish a high flow waterway management system.
  - 2.2.3.2 Establish live stream water flow throughout the watershed areas
- 2.2.4 Salinas River
  - 2.2.4.1 Develop high flow waterway system management system.
- 2.2.5 State Water Project (SWP) – Up to 15,273 AFY available
  - 2.2.5.1 Connect Shandon to SWP and set up distribution system.
  - 2.2.5.2 Connect San Miguel/Paso Robles /Templeton /Atascadero to SWP.

- 2.2.5.3 Turnout the SWP Coastal Branch at the City of San Luis/Nacimiento junction.
- 2.2.5.4 Connect Creston to SWP.
- 2.2.5.5 Agriculture – Direct delivery
- 2.2.5.6 Rural Residential – Direct delivery
- 2.2.6 Desalination
  - 2.2.6.1 Desalinization of sea water or brackish water.
- 2.2.7 Precipitation Enhancement
  - 2.2.7.1 Cloud seeding

### **3. Recycled Water**

#### **3.1 Urban and Urban Non-Domestic**

- 3.1.1 Paso Robles, San Miguel, Templeton, Atascadero
  - 3.1.1.1 Upgrade wastewater treatment plants for distribution to end users.
  - 3.1.1.2 Install grey water reuse systems onsite.

#### **3.2 Agriculture**

- 3.2.1 Install grey water reuse systems onsite.

#### **3.3 Rural Residential**

- 3.3.1 Install grey water reuse systems onsite.

### **4. Management**

#### **4.1 Groundwater management**

- 4.1.1 Prohibit groundwater exports from the Basin.
- 4.1.2 Develop an equitable allocation of safe yield for all overlayers.
- 4.1.3 Establish baseline conditions.
- 4.1.4 Continuously monitor status of basin to determine whether solutions are effective.
- 4.1.5 Manage pumping from all wells in the basin.
- 4.1.6 Provide a potable water source for use in trucking water to homes for emergency purposes.
- 4.1.7 Groundwater banking.

#### **4.2 Alternative Governance Structures**

- 4.2.1 All Areas
  - 4.2.1.1 Create a basin-wide groundwater management district management system.

- 4.2.1.2 Do nothing.
- 4.2.2 Rural Residential
  - 4.2.2.1 Connect rural residential properties adjacent to urban water providers.
  - 4.2.2.2 Create small community systems for rural communities.
  - 4.2.2.3 Create a rural water district.
- 4.2.3 Agriculture – Irrigated Crops
  - 4.2.3.1 Create irrigation districts or other management authorities to convey water to agricultural users.

### **4.3 Land Use Management**

#### **4.3.1 Ordinances and Policies - Agriculture**

- 4.3.1.1 Implement ordinances to prohibit subdivisions of land or General Plan Amendments in the Basin.
- 4.3.1.2 Implement landscaping ordinance (ag processing).
- 4.3.1.3 Establish policies and funding to take irrigated agricultural acreage out of production.
- 4.3.1.4 Establish ordinances to protect recharge areas and watersheds.
- 4.3.1.5 Encourage the segments of the ag industry that are comparatively water neutral.
- 4.3.1.6 Encourage existing low water use crops to remain.
- 4.3.1.7 Encourage projects that detain or slow runoff.
- 4.3.1.8 Enforce erosion and sediment control plan per current grading ordinance.
- 4.3.1.9 Enact urgency ordinance for new/expanded ag to limit per parcel water use to sustainable level.
- 4.3.1.10 Require hold harmless notice when land sold that basin in decline and not rely on for intensive use.
- 4.3.1.11 Enact urgency ordinance for new/expanded users that they provide guarantees to maintain residential water supplies.
- 4.3.1.12 Enact urgency moratorium restricting new wells to no greater than 6 inch casing.
- 4.3.1.13 Adopt urgency plan for fair and equitable allocation of groundwater that protects residential users.
- 4.3.1.14 Enact urgency moratorium on all ag overhead irrigation, including frost protection.
- 4.3.1.15 Enact urgency moratorium banning construction of all reservoirs for storage of irrigation water.

#### **4.3.2 Ordinances and Policies - Rural Residential**

- 4.3.2.1 Implement ordinances to prohibit subdivisions of land or General Plan Amendments in the Basin.
- 4.3.2.2 Implement landscaping ordinance.
- 4.3.2.3 Require new development to be water neutral.
- 4.3.2.4 Encourage projects that detain or slow runoff.
- 4.3.2.5 Implement Low Impact Development standards.
- 4.3.2.6 Enforce erosion and sediment control plan per current grading ordinance.
- 4.3.2.7 Require hold harmless notice when land sold that basin in decline and not rely on for intensive use.
- 4.3.2.8 Adopt urgency plan for fair and equitable allocation of groundwater that protects residential users.