

Fw: "August 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27"

Catrina Christensen to: Annette Ramirez

08/01/2013 12:06 PM

Catrina Christensen
Division Supervisor
(805) 781-5225

Website: www.SLOvote.com

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----- Forwarded by Katrina Christensen/ClerkRec/COSLO on 08/01/2013 12:06 PM -----

From: Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO
To: Fran Zohns/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Katrina Christensen/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings
Date: 08/01/2013 11:54 AM
Subject: Fw: "August 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27"

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 11:53 AM -----

From: Inge Meinzer <inge.meinzer@sbcglobal.net>
To: "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/01/2013 11:42 AM
Subject: "August 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27"

Hi,

I just sent the attached letter to all members of the BoS and would appreciate if you were to include it into the record. Please do not include my phone number or e-mail address.
Thank you!

Kind regards,
Inge

Inge Meinzer, M.A.
Professional Translator German<->English

Agenda Item Number: 27
Meeting Date: August 6, 2013
Presented By: Inge Meinzer
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 1, 2013

<http://proz.com/profile/903227>



Letter to Editor_8_1_2013.docx

Editor,

Mr. Mecham's revelations regarding the development of the water crisis are very interesting. If I understand his letter correctly, there were studies as far back as 2003. He says that now is not the time for finger-pointing. True, that will not solve the problem. However, it is entirely legitimate for the affected citizenry to ask why, with all the findings gathered and no rainfall to speak of, no action was taken to curb growth. We know that vineyards take 67% of the water. Therefore, judicious permitting of giant new agricultural wells should have topped the list of countermeasures. Doing nothing got us here!

The statements members of PRAAGS and their allies use to rally their troops make it clear that they are categorically opposed to any restrictions. Yet they brazenly suggest that county residents whose wells are dry or at risk of going dry step aside, be neighborly and find ways to "share water". The arrogance of land barons demanding that residential overlies incur physical and financial hardship so their business activities are not curtailed is nothing short of appalling. Not only that, they even consider an emergency moratorium on expansion intolerable. There is nothing neighborly about their stance.

Sincerely,

I. Meinzer
Paso Robles



To: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2380)
From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Thursday 08/01/2013 08:23 AM
Sent by: Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 08:23 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 07/31/2013 10:59 PM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2380)

Contact Us (response #2380)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Contact Us
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm
Submission Time/Date:	7/31/2013 10:58:34 PM

Survey Response

Name:	Louise Balma
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	louisebalma@sbcglobal.net
Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):	Dear County Board Supervisors; I am writing to urge you all to oppose implementation of the proposed Urgency Ordinance as presented by the Department of Planning and Building without further testimony from various stakeholders in the Paso Robles Basin. My family has been California farmers for over 100 years and over 30 years in Paso Robles. We agree that everyone including the cities need to be involved in solutions for the health of the basin. We must take into consideration the balance of preserving the viability of agriculture and the quality of life for all overlying landowners. We all enjoy our rural agricultural environment and thus we must all work together in defining equitable solutions for all users of the Basin. I urge you allocate more time into this very important decision, agriculturists have provided an economically viable and thriving community and accepts its responsibility to help lead in the solving of the water balance issue. The Paso

Robles Agricultural Alliance for Ground Water Solutions (PRAAGS) represents agriculturists ranging from small vineyards to large ranches and is already moving forward give them a seat at the table to come up with a solution that works. Please do not pass this ordinance but instead provide the structure to work cooperatively to stabilize, preserve and maintain a sustainable groundwater supply.
Respectfully Louise Ravera Balma California Farmer



Fw: Paso Robles area water problem

Cytasha Campa to: BOS_Legislative Assistants Only,
cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/01/2013 10:11 AM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 10:10 AM -----

From: Mark <mdoat@yahoo.com>
To: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/01/2013 09:55 AM
Subject: Paso Robles area water problem

Dear Supervisors,

I am sending this letter out of the growing concern of our water crisis in the area water basin. As you well know there are many factors involved in the current situation, population, lack of rain and the continually growing agricultural needs pulling water from our water basin. We have all seen the charts and graphs indicating the problem from as far back as early 2000 and earlier, however nothing has been done to protect this valuable resource. Once the water is gone I am asking you what then is going to happen?, Will I be able to pull a water trailer to your house to get water for my family? How are YOU as Supervisors going to protect the citizens in your district's rights to the water that supports our life? Also, While making your decisions, we want to be sure to put "measures and people" in place that would not be biased to serve their own gluttonous needs, on how to protect our valuable resource. Do the right thing and stop this nonsense of not knowing what is happening and needing "more information", the info is there, take a ride in your districts, there is more vineyards going in and water wells being drilled to support them, I have watched 5 large ag wells and countless acres of vineyards be put in in the past year.. it is like "the gold rush" in the 1800's.. "HURRY BEFORE THEY SHUT US DOWN!!!" Big money no problem, is that how we are going to run our districts? When the water is gone are the vintners going to be here then? surely not, and you will have had your part in the demise of the area. Does that sound like something that a Supervisor would want to be remembered for. "Great job!" The people in your districts won't forget. Do the right thing! Make your district proud to have elected you, and make those tough decisions and protect your districts.

Thank you
Mark Coats



Agenda 8/6 correspondence
Fran Zohns to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/01/2013 10:51 AM



doc20130801114256.pdf

Fran Zohns
Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County
(805)781-5450

Have successfully grown wine grapes
in the Paso Robles area since 1952

Richard Sauret

Comments from our Members:

A few years ago it was predicted that the way vineyards were created and farmed would have to change because of the depletion of our most important natural resource (water) like it or not we are at the crossroads and with no other choice we must learn how to farm with less water.

This last winter was one of the shortest rainfall years I can remember 5.9 inches, you can not totally dry farm vineyards under these conditions, however you can do the right things at the right time and use less water.

My vines this year have received 65 gallons per vine. I would not be surprised if most vineyards were upwards of 250 gallons per vine by years end.

My vineyards have no more than 604 vines per acre with room to grow a root system to support themselves, proper cultivation at the right time is very important for you to save the good water that mother nature gave you for free.

My opinion of number of vines per acre would be no more than 750 per acre depending where you are located east or west, your average rainfall would answer that question. In this appellation some vineyards have 1500 or more vines per acre, the competition in the vineyard is enormous and they need food and water often, especially if you did not control weeds early season.

SIP— sustainable in practice a comment mentioned a lot in recent years, if it is practiced great and if not it is just a piece of paper. Before you could buy this piece of paper saying you were SIP the old farmers and ranchers had to be sustainable or they would not have survived for the many years that they did.

With the high density plantings that have been done and are being done and the wells go dry is that sustainable in practice?

IGGPRA member.....Richard Sauret



Richard Sauret

Paso Robles, CA 93446

Forwarded
to the
Clerk Recorder

EACH SUPERVISOR
RECEIVED COPY

Pear Valley
ESTATE WINE

Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County

AUG - 1 2013

RECEIVED

July 31, 2013

Bruce Gibson
SLO County Supervisor
Room D-430, County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance

Dear Mr. Gibson:

My husband and I own a small vineyard and winery in Paso Robles. It represents a lifetime of work since both of us sold our businesses and put everything into this venture.

We spent considerable sums of money to ensure that our vineyards and winery are efficient in all matters, including water conservation. We are SIP (Sustainable In Practice) Certified and will continue to pursue all measures to conserve water. We would be happy to show you our vineyards and winery so you understand our commitment.

However, we cannot sustain our business under the proposed regulations. Please vote no on the proposed Urgency Ordinance and give our industry a chance to devote our energy to developing a Water District to develop long term, sensible, sustainable answers.

Regards,



Kathleen Maas, President
Pear Valley Vineyard, Inc.

Paso Robles, CA 93446



Fw: water

Cytasha Campa to: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk
Clerk Recorder

08/01/2013 12:58 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 12:58 PM -----

From: Rohde Ranch <templetonoliveoil@me.com>
To: ccampa@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 08/01/2013 12:53 PM
Subject: water

Hi there, my name is Dan Rohde I own an olive ranch in Templeton on El Pomar. We have 7000 trees and are a family business we live on the property with our 4 children and all run the ranch together. We use our water as responsibly as we can, we have let our front yard lawn die to convert it to a native natural zero water landscape. The concern I have is the large Justin development on south El pomar and the county allowing them to have very large water reservoirs to pump out of. They even lined them with black plastic. Thousands and thousands of gallons of water is being evaporated. How can this abuse of our water be allowed. If they cant get the water output they want then they shouldn't they plant less? This is not Napa, we don't get the rainfall Napa does. They don't live her or have families here and no vested interest in the wonderful communities in our county. Regulating the size of well casings the county approves could solve the problem at least for now. You cant get a water permit in Cambria or San Simeonto build a house , why cant we do that here? Families in my area are loosing there wells and don't have enough money to drill deeper. If my wells goes dry I lose my house , my property and my career. I have to have water and as a county in a drought crisis we have to stop the wineries from stealing it all. I own the 40 acres next door and was going to plant more olives but through talking with my wife and prayer we have decided that would be unfair to our neighbors and will dry farm it instead. Do you think the guys from Napa would do that? They are planting as fast as possible in fear that you might shut them down, it is a disgrace. Thanks for your time and I hope and pray a solution can be found to help as many county residents as possible.

Dan Rohde

Owner Templeton Olive Oil

Dan Rohde
Templeton Olive Oil
Templetonoliveoil@icloud.com
Templetonoliveoil.Com



Fw: Aug.6,2013BoS hearing item #27

Cytasha Campa to: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk
Clerk Recorder

08/01/2013 01:02 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 01:02 PM -----

From: Jim McWilliam <cubberley80@msn.com>
To: "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, Susan McWilliam <susanmcw@gmail.com>
Date: 08/01/2013 01:00 PM
Subject: Aug.6,2013BoS hearing item #27

Esteemed members of the County Board of Supervisors, as a life time resident of California and a descendant of a pioneer family I urge you to think of the individual residents of our beautiful county. The non-resident large vineyard owners who use our grapes to make wines in other counties of California. Counties who regulate their water use in a cooperative environment have an opportunity to use SLO county water with wreck-less abandon to the needs of individual residents who rely on our water for survival.

I urge you to think/watch out for the greater needs of families, smaller wineries and the whole body of residents. This group lives and breathes the air in our county which cannot survive without the access to water that lies beneath the land we use. I urge you to consider individuals who don't have the monetary resources of large businesses utilizing the system in order to exploit our land, with no long range concern for the needs of the community. Each person has an obligation/right to have his/her vote recognized. Those with large amounts of money to throw around should not be able to violate the lives of individuals residents for their financial gain.

I know your responsibility/liability is huge and I am willing to sacrifice for the greater good if your decision means that each of the parties must work together to solve this water problem we face.

Please whatever your decision must be protect this great resource we all share, do what is right not expedient. I like what you have begun to do to address this monumental issue.

Agenda Item Number: 27
Meeting Date: August 6, 2013
Presented By: Jim McWilliam
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 1, 2013



Fw: August 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27
Cytasha Campa to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/01/2013 03:50 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 03:49 PM -----

From: "Mike Neiggemann" <miken@gotsky.com>
To: <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/01/2013 03:48 PM
Subject: August 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27

San Luis Obispo County Supervisors,

How will history judge your performance? Just as Nero "fiddled" as Rome burned, you seem to be "fiddling" with procedural matters and studies while your constituents suffer very serious consequences as the result of your delay in acting to save our aquifer. Yesterday as I was driving on several rural roads in North County I was amazed to see huge tractors with 8 foot long teeth ripping large areas of land, obviously preparing for planting even more vineyards! What kind of people would do such a thing, knowing that rural wells on many residential properties are dry, or soon will be?

You were elected by the people of this county to fairly and justly administer the law and to wisely choose strategies that will assure the health and vitality of our county for generations to come. Will policies that permit or foster unfettered growth of crops that require increasing reliance on our decreasing aquifer do this? I don't think so! When the University of California studied the agricultural potential of North County years ago, they determined that the best use of the land was for almond and wheat production, both crops capable of thriving without supplemental irrigation. (I personally would have added cattle ranching to the list.) Face it. Look around! We live in a semi-arid climate with inconsistent rainfall and poor access to supplemental water supplies.

As I understand the law, the first call on water is for human use and consumption. How then can you justify allowing residential wells to go dry and your constituents being faced with health, safety (fire suppression?) and serious financial issues just so grapes can be grown and exported from our area?

You have a chance to secure your legacy by acting quickly and decisively to set a direction for North County that will assure stable and sustainable growth for the future. First, immediately adopt an emergency measure to temporarily stop all new well drilling except for replacing dry or near-dry wells. Second, redirect your staff and the Blue Ribbon Committee to focus their attention on the means and timeline to restore the aquifer to a reasonable and sustainable level. Third, establish a water management/oversight board of individual constituents (one person=one vote) and not one based upon acreage owned. After all, isn't that how you were elected? If and when the aquifer is restored and in

balance, permit additional wells, first for human use and consumption and secondarily for other uses. These actions seem to be the only way to protect your existing vulnerable constituents and will help assure a healthy and vital North County for generations to come. Please do the right thing!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Neiggemann
Rural resident since 1993.

-Mike Neiggemann



Fw: North County Water Crisis

Cytasha Campa to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/01/2013 03:51 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/01/2013 03:50 PM -----

From: Allen Duckworth <duck_pen@hotmail.com>
To: "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ccampa@co.slo.ca.us" <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/01/2013 03:49 PM
Subject: North County Water Crisis

Debbie Arnold:

I have nothing but admiration for those who invested so much time and energy to pioneer and build the world class Paso Robles Wine industry. What they have accomplished is nothing short of amazing! However, today I find it very sad to see these same people heading down a path of self-destruction, apparently ready to just give away everything they have worked so hard to build. They are wanting to create a California Water District controlled by the largest land owners, which is rapidly becoming the large agricultural corporations interested only in maximizing their profit. If PRAAGS succeeds in pushing that through, the next thing to happen will be a land buying frenzy by groups such as Roll Global (Stewart & Lynda Resnick). This will be the one opportunity for the local wine producers to cash out. Once they have acquired sufficient acreage, they will take ownership of the Paso Robles Water Basin by appointing their own directors to manage the water district and apply a stranglehold to all their competitors in the area just like they did with the Kern Water Bank in the San Joaquin Valley. The number one priority must be a temporary moratorium on building and vineyard planting – no new wells. We have already reached a point that is unsustainable and cannot continue to draw more and more water out of the basin without stabilizing the basin first. The revenue raised from increased vineyards would be a temporary windfall at the expense of long term damage to our aquifer and reduced revenues for future generations.

Frank A Duckworth

Paso Robles, CA 93446