



**To:** BOS\_Legislative Assistants, cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,  
**Cc:**  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Contact Us (response #2381)  
**From:** Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO - Friday 08/02/2013 08:22 AM  
**Sent by:** Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/02/2013 08:22 AM -----

**From:** "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>  
**To:** "BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSupps@co.slo.ca.us>  
**Date:** 08/01/2013 09:50 PM  
**Subject:** Contact Us (response #2381)

**Contact Us (response #2381)**

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Contact Us
URL:	<a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm">http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm</a>
Submission Time/Date:	8/1/2013 9:50:31 PM

Survey Response

Name:	Diane Sayre
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	
Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):	I am writing to you (again!) because I wanted to make one more comment before your meeting regarding the water crisis on August 6th. It's about the Big Picture in all this. I was talking to another area resident about the water issues tonight and the one thing we agreed on was that neither of us are anything close to what could be called "anti-winery." In fact we enjoy all the benefits the area wineries bring to Paso Robles – tourism, employment for our residents, tax base, sales and hotel taxes which bolster city coffers, and of course the pleasure of the wine itself. But the fact is, if the water table is allowed to deplete further, it will be the smaller, family-owned wineries – the wineries that, in my opinion, put (and keep) Paso Robles on the wine map – that will suffer the most economically, as they are forced to drill deeper wells and find their bottom line heading into the red instead of the black. The large, corporately-owned wineries will be better able to absorb a business loss, but the locally-owned wineries will suffer, possibly to a point of being forced to sell or go out of business. The wineries that are part of larger, out-of-the-area ag conglomerates will simply write off the loss on their corporate taxes and move on. Small local wineries, whose families have spent years building their businesses, will not have that option. When local wineries are impacted, employment suffers. Non-profits and charities that rely on the kindness and generosity of these smaller, local wineries will

suffer. And Paso Robles will lose what draws tourists to it time and again – the local, friendly, accessible wineries and tasting rooms, which we are known around the world for. As a rural homeowner, I am deeply concerned about my well and that of my neighbors' wells. Yet ALL local residents, be they homeowner or small vineyard owner, will lose if something is not done to mitigate the problem. Homeowners and vineyard owners may see themselves as being on opposite sides of the table, but the fact is we all drink the same water, and we will all go thirsty if that water supply goes dry. Please act now to save our aquifer. Diane Sayre Paso Robles



**Fw: Emergency Ordinance August 6, 2013**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/02/2013 08:23 AM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/02/2013 08:23 AM -----

From: "Susan Harvey" <ifsusan@tcsn.net>  
To: <boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/01/2013 09:41 PM  
Subject: Emergency Ordinance August 6, 2013

---

Hello – Please distribute our comments to the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you.

Susan Harvey,  
North County Watch

**Susan A. Harvey**

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?"  
from "*The Summer Day*"  
by Mary Oliver



NCW BoS emergency ords 8-2-2013.pdf



## North County Watch

Looking Out Today For Tomorrow

Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
Via Email [boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us)

August 2, 2013

RE: Paso Groundwater basin Emergency Ordinances

Dear Chairman Gibson and Supervisors,

Thank you for agendizing this important issue of emergency measures to stop the decline of the basin.

We would like to review a few important points for your discussion on Tuesday. The basin decline is caused by years of overpumping as evidenced by the hydrographs that cover the majority of overlying acreage.<sup>i</sup>

“One good rainy season” will not fix the problem. The average rainfall has remained consistent for over 50 years according to Todd Engineering.<sup>ii</sup>

Over 20,000 rural residences depend on the basin as their only source of water. The towns of San Miguel, Shandon and City of Paso Robles rely on the basin for their water needs. Over 75,000 people rely on the main basin. The basin is facing serious water quality issues - intrusion of geothermal and connate waters - if it is not stabilized immediately.

Supplemental water cannot fill the gap between what is pumped and the safe yield. Major infrastructure projects are years away and even if all sources of imported water were tapped, there would still be a deficit.<sup>iii</sup>

No amount of conservation or BMPs will solve the problem if there is no regulation or offsets for new irrigated ag uses. Everyone’s effort will go for nothing if new thirsty uses expand.

Water Code Section 106 provides “It is hereby declared to be the established policy of this State that the use of water for domestic purposes is the highest use of water and that the next highest use is for irrigation.”<sup>iv</sup>

*Page 1 of 4*

North County Watch  
501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation (77-0576955)

Templeton, CA 93465

Agenda Item Number: 27  
Meeting Date: August 6, 2013  
Presented By: Susan Harvey  
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 2, 2013

Regardless of the feasibility of importing water under the auspices of a water district, that option is not going to solve the serious ongoing decline in the basin now. The decline must be stopped now. Your Board must protect the water supply of the residential overlayers.

Thank you for reviewing our comments,

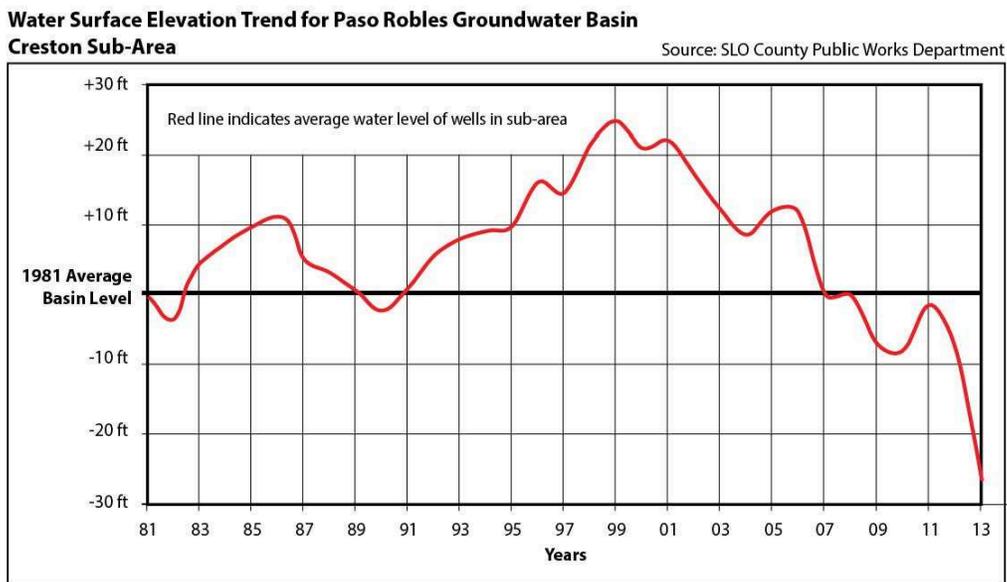


Susan Harvey, President

- <sup>i</sup> See hydrographs attached
- <sup>ii</sup> See Todd Engineering chart attached.
- <sup>iii</sup> See SLO Co. Public Works chart attached
- <sup>iv</sup> Please see NCW Memo to BRC dated May 17, 2013

Attachments:

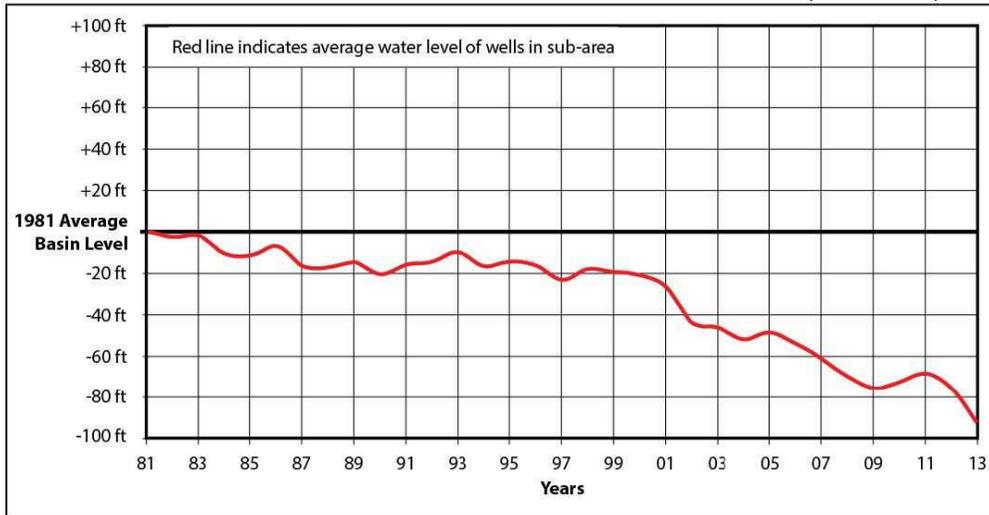
**Hydrographs showing the drop in groundwater (red line).**



**Creston**

**Water Surface Elevation Trend for Paso Robles Groundwater Basin  
Estrella Sub-Area**

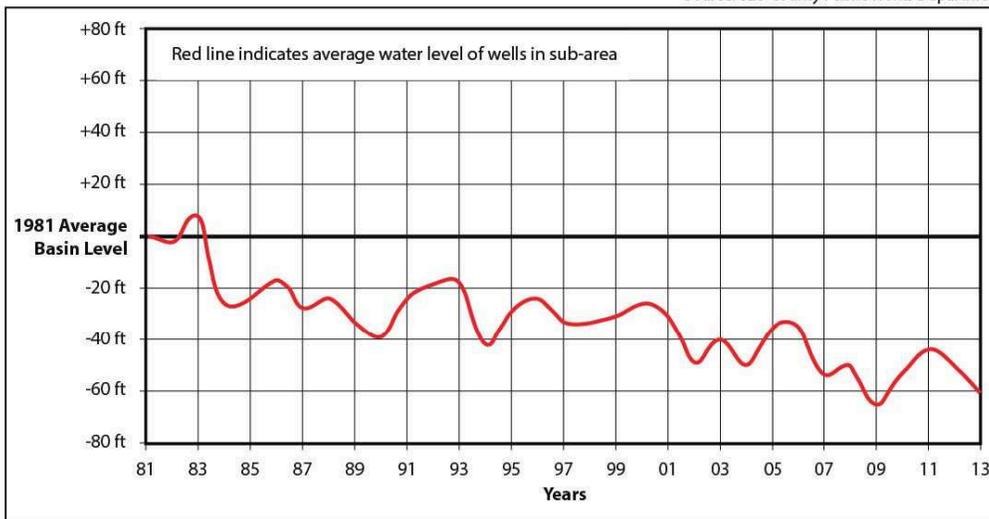
Source: SLO County Public Works Department



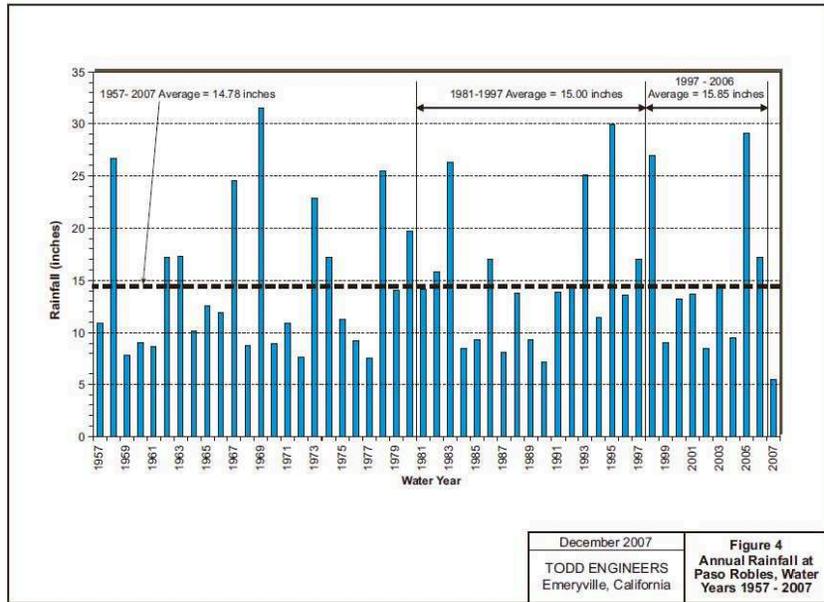
**Estrella**

**Water Surface Elevation Trend for Paso Robles Groundwater Basin  
Shandon Sub-Area**

Source: SLO County Public Works Department

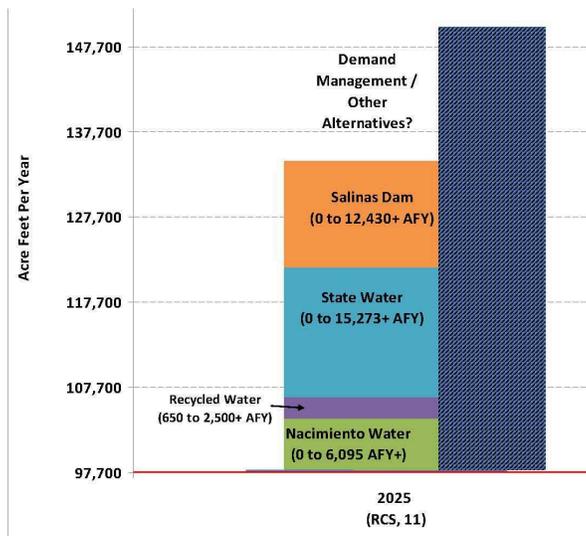


**Shandon**



Although the rainfall varies from year to year the annual average rainfall has remained consistent for over 50 years.

### Supplemental Water Potential



**Supplemental Water can not make up for the pumping deficit.**



**Fw: August 6, 2013 Agenda item #27**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/02/2013 08:23 AM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/02/2013 08:23 AM -----

From: Dianne <pasodj@aol.com>  
To: fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us,  
BoardofSups@co.slo.ca.us  
Date: 08/01/2013 08:25 PM  
Subject: August 6, 2013 Agenda item #27

---

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The time has come to take a positive stand on the Urgency Ordinances to stop further decline of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

The time has come to do the right thing. The time has come to say enough is enough!  
No more planting, no more building, no more over pumping, and no more ponds.

This entire mess just has to stop.

It is time to make everyone accountable and responsible for this precious finite resource.

It is time to be brave, stand tall and take a position that reflects your concern for this dire situation.

No sugar coating, no talking in circles, no folding under the pressures of the big pumper's.

They are not the economic engine of this county. The residents and small business owners are the pulse of this community.

And this economic engine is imploring you, our elected officials, to do the right thing and start to correct this wrong.

Respectfully,  
Dianne Jackson  
Paso Robles



**Fw: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin**

**Board of Supervisors** to: BOS\_Legislative Assistants,  
cr\_board\_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/02/2013 08:32 AM

Sent by: **Cytasha Campa**

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/02/2013 08:32 AM -----

From: <2rsmith@att.net>  
To: Board of Supervisors <boardofsups@co.slo.ca.us>  
Date: 08/02/2013 08:30 AM  
Subject: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

---

Dear Board Members,

Please consider my thoughts regarding the groundwater basin action before you. I will be forwarding a more specific response to staff's proposed options tomorrow.

Regards

Dan

Sent from Windows Mail



Board Letter0001.pdf

August 2, 2013

Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93408



Re: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Urgency Ordinance, Item 27

Dear Supervisors;

The reliability and sustainability of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin demands that your Board take steps to address the issue. The consequences of taking no action is unacceptable on many levels. However, the direction you choose and steps you take must take into consideration many factors that are known and unknown. Recognition of this fact requires that you take thoughtful and well-reasoned actions that do not cause harm to those in the basin who have made financial commitments based on personal and business decisions long before this issue surfaced, or unduly restrict the rights of others by implementing sweeping regulations.

Here are a few prioritized thoughts on the issue for your consideration.

1. **Take limited action on August 6<sup>th</sup>** and consider additional action steps at a future Board meeting based on the following:
  - a) Create an ad-hoc committee of the Board to oversee the process for determining the appropriate actions to take.
  - b) Curtail new well drilling applications on an interim basis, as suggested by staff, until the agricultural community can give the ad-hoc committee direction as to how to deal with new well permits. However, you should honor the financial and contractual commitments that have already been made by property and business owners and let them proceed as well as define a process for review of exceptions.
  - c) Do something to assist those property owners who are experiencing well failures. Enlist the Public Works department and other community groups to make a series of recommendations for your consideration at a hearing in 60-days. You can't drill new wells for everyone who is affected, nor are the circumstances the same for every property. Just be mindful that a wholesale prohibition of new wells in the basin will not likely remedy their situation.
2. **Empower PRAAGS and other interest groups** to outline and define the following items for your consideration at a hearing within 60-days:
  - a) Creation of a Water District for the basin. The property and business owners should be allowed to create their own model of restrictions and allowances since they have the most to gain.
  - b) Determine what measures of the staff proposal should be implemented and/or modified. This will give your Board the ability the lead and not have to choose winners and losers.

I believe that the decisions before you have the ability to create much more harm than good if you act too hastily and ignore the voices of those within the basin who are seeking to establish a long term solution. I encourage you to take measured and deliberate steps to address the health and sustainability of the basin and its property owners. I will be following this letter with a more detailed discussion of staff's options in a separate transmittal to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Lloyd".

Dan Lloyd