

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Works	(2) MEETING DATE 12/17/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Courtney Howard, Senior Water Resources Engineer (805) 781-1016	
(4) SUBJECT Receive a Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan implementation update and provide staff direction as you deem appropriate.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is our recommendation that your Honorable Board, acting as the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control District) receive a Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan implementation update and provide staff direction as you deem appropriate.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>120 mins.</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP Attached	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: 10/1/2013; Item #13	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 1 - District 5 -			

Reference: 13DEC17-BB-1

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Works
Courtney Howard, Senior Water Resources Engineer

VIA: Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works

DATE: 12/17/2013

SUBJECT: Receive a Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan implementation update and provide staff direction as you deem appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

It is our recommendation that your Honorable Board, acting as the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control District) receive a Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan implementation update and provide staff direction as you deem appropriate.

DISCUSSION

On March 27, 2012, your Board, sitting as the Flood Control District, adopted a Groundwater Management Plan (Basin Plan) for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin) pursuant to Assembly Bill 3030 (AB 3030), which was established by State Legislation in 1992 to encourage and provide a systematic way of managing groundwater basins throughout California. The Basin Plan was funded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through a grant with the City of Paso Robles. On May 1, 2012, the City also adopted the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan complies with Senate Bill 1938 (2002), which is required to seek DWR grants for groundwater projects and groundwater quality projects. Your Board created a Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) to help steer implementation of the Basin Plan, and status updates have been provided to your Board. Consistent with prior direction, this staff report includes updates on multiple ongoing Basin efforts, including:

- Updating the computer model of the Basin
 - Preliminary Water Balance and Perennial Yield Estimates
- Preparing supplemental water feasibility studies
- Basin governance structure efforts, which covers:
 - What a Groundwater Management District should seek to accomplish through a more robust AB 3030 Basin Management Plan
 - Coordination with LAFCO
 - Public outreach

Computer Model Update

On August 28, 2012 your Board awarded a contract to Geoscience, Inc. to update the computer model for the Basin. Attachment “1” outlines the tasks for the computer modeling project, their completion status and timing, including next steps. A draft of the presentation on the computer model update to be provided to your Board is included as Attachment “2”.

Preliminary Water Balance and Perennial Yield Estimates

The approach to calculating the water balance terms (i.e. inflows and outflows) was reviewed by the model update subcommittee of the BRC, and a public meeting was held to present the approach on May 2, 2013. Attachment “3” provides a summary of the preliminary results for the water balance and perennial yield estimates and a comparison to previous studies. For the purposes of this report, the perennial yield for the Basin is defined as the amount of water that can be withdrawn and consumed on an average annual basis over the long-term and under given land use conditions without exceeding the recharge to the groundwater basin. Managing groundwater basins in a manner consistent with perennial yield helps avoid long-term adverse impacts such as groundwater level declines. Because land uses and hydrologic conditions can change over time, the perennial yield must be re-evaluated periodically.

Supplemental Water Feasibility Studies

On August 27, 2013, your Board directed staff to proceed with the issuance of requests for statements of qualifications from consultant teams qualified to prepare water supply feasibility studies for the Basin. Staff received statements from two qualified teams – Carollo Engineers and GEI Consultants. Both teams include sub-consultants to meet overall technical needs. Development of final proposals are in process and contract recommendations are anticipated for your Board’s consideration in January 2014.

Basin Governance Structure Efforts

On November 5, 2013, your Board also directed staff to submit an application for a grant to help fund legal entity (governance structure) formation efforts for the Basin. In developing the grant application, staff identified the anticipated tasks, costs and timelines associated with Basin governance structure efforts. Part B of the work plan from the application is included as Attachment “4” for discussion purposes.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Blue Ribbon Committee is the primary advisory body for the Basin.

Local agencies, such as the City of Paso Robles, Templeton Community Services District and Atascadero Mutual Water Company, and advisory groups, such as the Water Resources Advisory Committee, and other community, agricultural and economic advisory committees, are engaged in the short, medium and long term efforts associated with management of the Basin.

Coordination with the Administrative Office, Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, County Counsel, Planning and Building Department and Public Health Department is also occurring on issues associated with the Paso Basin.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Efforts associated with implementation of the Basin Plan are included in Fund 19 of the Flood Control District, whose revenue source is Flood Control District Reserves. The Flood Control Fund 19 budget for the current fiscal year is \$527,542, and approximately \$235,000 has been expended or encumbered through the end of November. It is anticipated that an inter-fund transfer from District reserves to Fund 19 will be submitted for your Board's consideration at a future date after feasibility study recommendations and other cost projections are developed.

RESULTS

Continuing with Basin management efforts under existing Board direction will help to ensure the Basin is effectively managed so it can remain a reliable source of water for all of its users, contributing to safe, healthy, livable, prosperous and well-governed communities.

File: CF 500.132.01 Groundwater Study - Paso Robles Management Plan

Reference: 13DEC17-BB-1

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Vicinity Map
2. Attachment 1 - Computer Model Update Tasks and Status
3. Attachment 2 - Water Balance and Perennial Yield Estimation Presentation
4. Attachment 3 - Preliminary Water Balance and Perennial Yield Estimates Summary
5. Attachment 4 - Legal Entity (Governance Structure) Formation Efforts Work Plan