

## Attachment C Letter of Support

From: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Blue Ribbon Steering Committee  
To: SLO County Board of Supervisors

California Water Code Section 10750 et.seq. (commonly referred to as AB 3030) allows the SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District") to develop a groundwater management plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin within its jurisdiction exclusive of local agency/water purveyor service areas. The District adopted a Groundwater Management Plan ("AB 3030 Plan") for that portion of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin in 2012.

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan Blue Ribbon Steering Committee ("BRC") was formed to implement the Plan. On May 7, 2013, the BRC requested that the SLO County Board of Supervisors provide the necessary financial and technical support to implement a Groundwater Management District with participation of all of the stakeholders in the basin.

When the current Plan was adopted, it was with the understanding that its implementation would be voluntary. A "phasing" of the Plan is allowed, which provides for progressive successful implementation as the Plan and the groundwater management structure move forward. The BRC recognizes that a second phase or "enhanced" AB 3030 Plan needs to be adopted, which would identify the specific management activities that need to be implemented to stabilize and protect the basin, as well as the development of a sustainable funding strategy. The "enhanced" AB 3030 Plan has been discussed during several meetings of the BRC and is the direction the BRC is recommending to the SLO County Board of Supervisors.

The BRC is recommending to the SLO County Board of Supervisors that the process of adopting an "enhanced" AB 3030 Plan begin. We are recommending that the Board of Supervisors (acting as the District Board) adopt a resolution of intention to review, study, and draft an enhanced AB 3030 Plan. During this process, there will be opportunities for comment and participation by all interested stakeholders. The final adoption and implementation of the AB 3030 Plan would be best conducted by the proposed Paso Robles Basin Water District. If the Paso Robles Basin Water District is not created within 24 months, the County should adopt the enhanced AB 3030 Plan.

**Blue Ribbon Committee**  
**For the Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan**  
**Meeting of Thursday, January 16th, 2014**

**2 pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Paso Robles City Council Chambers**

**Mission Statement**

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

**AGENDA**

- |  |                  |         |
|--|------------------|---------|
| 1. Introductions   | Committee/Public | 2:00 pm |
| 2. Meeting Procedure and Expectations  | Larry Werner     | 2:03 pm |
| 3. Review of Minutes from last meeting   | Larry/Mike       | 2:05 pm |
| 4. Public comment  | Public           | 2:10 pm |
| 5. Staff Update<br>Feasibility Studies-Supply Options/Basin Solutions<br>Farm Bureau Member Update<br>Urgency Ordinance Implementation<br>AB 3030 Plan and Legislative Platform Timing   | Courtney         | 2:20 pm |
| 6. Consideration of Approving a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that the Board adopt an item for inclusion in the County Legislative Platform that is consistent with and supportive of the PRAAGS/PRO Water Equity agreement | Jerry/Sue        | 2:30 pm |
| 7. Consideration of Approving a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that they Adopt a Resolution of Intent to Modify the AB 3030 Plan   | Sue              | 3:00 pm |
| 8. Consideration of Approving a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on a BRC Successor Committee  | Larry            | 3:30 pm |
| 9. Education/Outreach Committee Update   | Claudia          | 4:00 pm |
| 10. Public comment   | Public           | 4:15 pm |
| 11. Future meeting topics/committee comments   |                  | 4:25 pm |
| 12. Adjourn  |                  | 4:30 pm |

**Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan  
Blue Ribbon Steering Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 16, 2014**

**Paso Robles City Council Chambers  
1000 Spring Street**

**1&2: Introductions and Meeting Expectations**

Members Present:

Larry Werner, At-Large (Chair)  
John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Co.  
Russ Thompson, City of Atascadero  
Keith Larson, City of Paso Robles  
Steve Sinton, Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR)  
Kent Gilmore, (PRIOR)  
Courtney Howard, SLO Co. Flood Control District  
Kurt Bollinger, SLO Cattlemen's Assoc.  
Jerry Reaugh, Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance (PRWCA)  
Joy Fitzhugh, SLO County Farm Bureau  
Megan Silcott, SLO County Farm Bureau  
Willy Cunha, Shandon, Central Coast Vineyard Team (CCVT)  
Patricia Wilmore, PRWCA  
Anthony Kalvans, San Miguel CSD  
Jeff Briltz, Templeton CSD  
Tina Mayer, Templeton CSD  
Claudia Engel, At Large  
Sue Luft, At Large  
Dana Merrill, At Large  
Maria Lorca, At Large

Members Absent:

Kris Beal, CCVT  
Laura Edwards, Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD  
Robert Hartzell, Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD  
Jim Magill, At Large  
Mike Cussen, At Large  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency Rep

3. **Review of Minutes from Last Meeting** - The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted unanimously with one date clarification by Sue Luft.

4. **Public Comment** - There were no Public comments.
9. **Education/Outreach Committee Update** (moved up on the agenda) - Claudia Engel gave a brief update on the website being down and hopefully coming back in the future.

Joy Fitzhugh gave a brief overview of work being done on Rainwater collection by Trout Unlimited in the County and suggested the Committee get a presentation on the project. There was general positive response and it was suggested that the SLO Greenbuild website had free downloads of publications on water catchment and legal grey water use.

5. **Staff Update** - Courtney Howard presented the Staff Update on Supply Option Feasibility Studies. They project a cost of 1.5 million dollars for the two studies. They plan to take this proposal before the BOS (Board of Supervisors) on 1/28/14. They are going to ask the BOS to also fund a contract with Hollenbeck Consulting to supply Technical review of the two studies and to offer subcontractor support to both studies for \$90,000. They will present the BOS, dependent upon positive action by this Blue Ribbon Committee, a recommendation to form a successor committee to the BRC on 1/28/14. Also dependent upon positive recommendations of this committee they will recommend to the BOS that it support the proposed special legislation concept presented by PRAAGGS and PRO Water Equity for the formation of a special water district under the laws of the State of California and in a parallel tract begin the process to update our AB3030 Plan on February 11<sup>th</sup>. On 1/28-14 Staff will recommend to the BOS to approve replacing Jackie Crabb with Megan Silcott as the Alternative SLO Farm Bureau Rep. The Planning Dept. Tuesday discussed and voted to use our local Resource Conservation District as the lead in developing an Agricultural "Offset Program" for new planting under our Urgency Ordinance #3246. In the meantime the County will use the Napa County Program as a Model.
6. **Consideration of Approving a Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that the Board adopt an item for inclusion in the County Legislative Platform that is consistent with and supportive of the PRAAGS/PRO Water Equity agreement** - Jerry Reaugh with Paso Robles Agricultural Alliance for Groundwater Solutions (PRAAGS) and Sue Luft with Pro Water Equity (PWE) gave a short presentation regarding the proposed Paso Robles Basin Water District formation concept and language. The District would be formed by parallel tracts coming together. A local Representative to the California State Legislature, probably Katcho Achadjian, would carry a very simple bill modifying water code to include the process to elect board members for a Paso Robles Basin Water District. The two lawyers representing PRAAGS and PRO Water Equity in consultation with members of those two groups are working on the final language to be presented for review. The water district formation process will go through our local LAFCO for public meetings and review before being voted on by the LAFCO Board. For the District concept to be implemented it must be positively passed by both houses of the State Legislature and signed by the Governor and voted on and passed by our LAFCO. Once

John Neil asks what “balance’ means. Steve Sinton answers stop water level declines and with the goal of recovering older higher level. Claudia Engel asks what the “checks and balances” for the District are. Jerry Reaugh answers the diverse 9 Board Members and the election process. Joy Fitzhugh asks if the process to move the legislation, review and rewrite our AB3030 Plan and the LAFCO review happen on separate or parallel tracts. PRAAGS/PWE representatives respond that in order to utilize this year’s legislative process, Rep. Achadjian is looking for support from various stakeholder groups and the Board of Supervisors needs to make its recommendation of support by 2/11/14 to introduce the bill in time, and that the goal would be able to start the formation process in early 2015. Someone asked if the District could control water extractions from the basin. Sue Luft answered, via the AB 3030 program, if other efforts fail to stabilize water levels, the Water District Board could control extractions. Sue Harvey asked how the public can comment on the proposal if they cannot see the actual language. The response was that actual proposed language for the legislative action will be available the week of 1/20/14 and that the public will have access to the language (which will be very similar to what was outlined) at BOS meetings, State Legislature Process and during the LAFCO process, and that the bill will be very simple and open giving Basin stakeholders local control.

John Neil moves and Claudia Engel seconds to give our support to the BOS adopting a resolution of support for this concept. It passes unanimously.

Larry Werner is impressed with the progress the Committee made over the last year.

7. **Consideration of recommending to the BOS that they Adopt a Resolution of Intent to Modify the AB 3030 Plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin** – A draft recommendation document from the Committee is reviewed. Steve Sinton expresses concern that the Basin might end up with two AB 3030 plans and that it might be better to wait for the District to form and let that Board create the updated plan. Committee members discuss and decide it would be good to start the process but not have the County adopt the final product if a Water District is formed and revisions to the document are made. Dana Merrill moves and Patricia Wilmore seconds that the Committee recommend that the Board proceeds with developing the language for a more robust AB 3030 but that they wait for the formation of a District, up to 24 months, before adopting the AB 3030 Plan themselves. The motion carries unanimously.
8. **Consideration of Approving a Recommendation to the BOS that they create a successor committee to the BRC** – After brief discussion, the Committee unanimously approves the language found in the County recommendation with the addition of the City of SLO and the inclusion of 1 undesignated at-large member and reducing the representation for rural residential from six to five. The Dept. of Public Works would advertise the openings, collect and analyze the applications and take them to the BOS with their recommendation. The representatives for the Cities, Districts or Organizations would be nominated by those organizations for consideration by the BOS.
10. **Public Comment** - none
11. **Future meeting topics/committee comments** - Claudia Engel thinks the advisory committee should not disband at the point of District Formation. Others suggested that the new District Board would want to form their own advisory committee. Sue Luft wants the Committee to formally propose water saving practices that the community at large could implement in the face of the current drought. John Neil reports that the City of Atascadero is declaring an updated drought level and will be doing public outreach and they fully expect to save 15%. Larry Werner congratulated both Atascadero and Paso for their innovative short term use of Nacimiento Water to reduce their use of basin water. Keith Larsen reported that Paso Robles will have approximately 3,000 acre feet of treated water that could be piped to the east if they had a partner capable of paying for that delivery. Steve Sinton suggests the Committee go over its spreadsheet of Solutions at the next meeting. Willy Cunha agrees that this would be a good chance to visit water infiltration projects and practices along with practices to reduce water use.

Next Meeting: February 20<sup>th</sup> in Templeton.

Final Meeting: March 13<sup>th</sup> in Paso

Ides of March the BRC disbands!