

Attachment 2



Fw: Water Conservation Implementation Strategies

James Caruso to: Matthew Ottoson

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matt....comments from wrac member on county wide water

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From: "Sue Luft" <aslft@wildblue.net>
To: "James Caruso" <jcaruso@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 04/07/2014 10:16 PM
Subject: Water Conservation Implementation Strategies

James,

I appreciated the presentation to the WRAC last week regarding this issue . I have a few comments, submitted on my own as an impacted landowner within the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

- **Protecting Agricultural Water Supplies, introductory discussion.** It is true that some rural residential property owners may not have the same resources available to drill deeper , larger diameter wells as some of the agricultural industry does . However, in some portions of the basin (like the Almond Drive / El Pomar area), the Paso Robles Formation is very shallow . The underlying formations may produce water , yet the quality is generally poorer and the storage capacity is unknown – since the water is generally produced from fractures . We were told that no usable water exists below about 500 ft at our location . Our new well was completed to 540 ft, which the drillers indicated was the base of usable water . It is not a case of financial resources, deeper water that is usable just does not exist .
- **Growth Management Ordinance.** Consideration should be given to require all new development in LOS III areas to be water neutral .
- **Require larger minimum parcel sizes.** An increase in the minimum parcel size should be pursued, as well as directing that no new land divisions be allowed within LOS II /III areas. The prohibition of new land divisions is most important . Parcels should not be created where the resources do not exist to supply them .
- **Merger of substandard parcels.** Although this may be appropriate , the complexity makes it a lower priority. Using planning and area standards is good , however, is probably too late in most cases. Providing community wells can help in some areas , although it does not solve the

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problem of depletion of the basin . In most cases, community wells will only postpone the inevitable as long as there continues to be a “race to the bottom” .

- **Amend the TDC ordinance.** One of the biggest concerns of the TDC ordinance is where the development is transferred to. Very few areas in the county are not constrained . The development potential should be retired , not transferred. Merger and growth management are much better tools.

Thanks,
Sue