

**Correspondence Received after July 6, 2015  
For the Countywide Water Conservation  
Program**

# County of San Luis Obispo Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Agricultural Liaison  
Advisory Board (ALAB)

Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: Jean-Pierre Wolff  
VICE CHAIR: Eric Michielssen

District One: Mecham Appt.  
Melanie Blankenship (1/17)

District Two: Gibson Appt.  
Lisen Bonnier (1/19)

District Three: Hill Appt.  
Tom Ikeda (1/17)

District Four: Compton Appt.  
Greg France (1/19)

District Five: Arnold Appt.  
Jerry Diefenderfer (1/17)

Ag. Finance Rep.  
Mark Pearce (8/18)

Cattlemen Rep.  
Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.  
Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/18)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.  
Eric Michielssen (4/16)

Environmental Rep.  
Richard Hawley (1/19)

Farm Bureau Rep.  
R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.  
David Pruitt (4/16)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.  
Charles Pritchard (1/18)

Vegetable Rep.  
Claire Wineman (4/16)

Wine Grape Rep.  
Neil Roberts (4/16)

County Agricultural Commissioner  
Marty Settevendemie  
*Ex-Officio*

U.C. Coop. Extension, County Director  
Mary Bianchi  
*Ex-Officio*

**DATE:** July 14, 2015

**TO:** San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission

**SUBJECT:** ALAB comments regarding the Countywide Water Conservation Program and DSEIR

At the June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) meetings, ALAB members heard presentations from San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning & Building staff regarding the proposed changes to the Countywide Water Conservation Program and the implementation of the Agricultural Water Offset plan and Agricultural Water Waste Prevention plan through changes in county Land Use Ordinance and changes to both the Agriculture Element and the Conservation and Open Space Element.

After considerable discussion over the course of both meetings, ALAB members approved the following motion.

“The Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) members recognize and appreciate the considerable amount of time and effort that your commission and planning staff have spent on the important topic of the Countywide Water Conservation Program, particularly the Agricultural Water Offset clearance program.

ALAB is supportive of water conservation and good land stewardship efforts, however, ALAB members are concerned about certain components of the program and therefore cannot support the program in its current form.

Examples of concerns include, but are not limited to: 1) the proposed components of the Agricultural Water Offset clearance program are presently applied only to the Paso Robles groundwater basin. ALAB has concerns that this set of criteria might be expanded into other areas of the County experiencing groundwater issues, and 2) ALAB does not support the proposed de minimis exemption for 2.5 acre feet of water use a year for qualifying sites due to the lack of clarity regarding the impacts associated with such an exemption on all

members of the agricultural community. “

As stated earlier, these are only a few representative examples of ALAB’s concern with the program as currently proposed; there were many additional areas of concern identified and discussed during the past two meetings.

Attachment G: Correspondence

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Wolff', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Jean-Pierre Wolff, Ph.D.  
ALAB Chair

CC: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning & Building  
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

Attachment G: Correspondence



Sue Luft  
Chairperson

Anthony Kalvans  
Vice Chairperson

Courtney Howard  
Secretary

Room 206, County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

PH (805) 781-1016  
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**AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

- John Neil  
*Atascadero MWC*
- Kris Beal  
*Central Coast Vineyard Team*
- Vacant  
*City of Atascadero*
- Christopher Alakel  
*City of Paso Robles*
- John Ashbaugh  
*City of San Luis Obispo*
- Vacant  
*County of Monterey  
(Resource Management Agency)*
- Robert Johnson  
*Monterey County Water  
Resources Agency*
- Steve Sinton  
*Paso Robles Imperiled  
Overlying Rights (PRIOR)*
- Patricia Wilmore  
*Paso Robles Wine  
Country Alliance*
- Anthony Kalvans  
*San Miguel CSD*
- Susan Howard  
*Shandon CSA 16*
- Kurt Bollinger  
*SLO County Cattleman's  
Association*
- Paul Clark  
*SLO County Farm Bureau*
- Jeff Brillz  
*Templeton CSD*
- Devin Best  
*Upper Salinas -  
Las Tablas RCD*
- AT-LARGE**
- Dana Merrill  
*Viticulture Agriculturalist  
At-Large*
- Bill Spencer  
*Non-Viticulture Irrigated Crop  
Agriculturalist At-Large*
- Sue Harvey  
*Environmental At-Large*
- Sue Luft  
*Rural Resident At-Large*
- Claudia Engel  
*Rural Resident At-Large*
- Edward C. Redig  
*Rural Resident At-Large*
- William Frost  
*Rural Resident At-Large*
- George Tracy  
*Rural Resident At-Large*
- Randy Diffenbaugh  
*Rural Resident At-Large  
District 1*
- Erin Faulkner  
*Rural Resident At-Large  
District 5*
- Larry Wemer  
*Undesignated At Large*

July 17, 2015

Honorable Debbie Arnold, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo  
1050 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: **Countywide Water Conservation Program - Draft Amendments to Title 22**

On May 21, 2015, the Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) submitted comments regarding the draft revisions to Title 22 related to crop production. Based on a review of the revised ordinance language, the majority of the comments of the PBAC have been addressed. We thank Planning staff and the Planning Commissioners for taking the concerns of the PBAC into account. However, one issue remains and another needs to be addressed as stated below.

- The termination provision should be clarified to state that the "... provisions of this section shall expire upon the adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the PRGWB."
- Section 22.30.204.B.3. should be revised to state that "... de minimis exemption is limited to the establishment of crop production representing a new total of no more than 2.5 AF per year per site." The current language is unclear.

On July 16, 2015, the PBAC voted (14-1-1-7) to forward this recommendation to your Board with copies to the Planning Commissioners and to the Planning Department for their consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Luft  
Chairperson, Paso Basin Advisory Committee

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts  
San Luis Obispo County Planning Commissioners, All Districts  
Planning Department staff - Trevor Keith, Xzandrea Fowler, Mike Hanebutt