

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)

City/County Library Community Room  
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

Wednesday, September 5, 2018  
1:30 pm

**AGENDA**

1.	Determination of a Quorum and Introductions	1:30 pm
2.	Approval of June 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes	1:35 pm
3.	Ongoing Updates: a. Rain & Reservoir Report b. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts c. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) d. Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) e. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances f. Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information	1:45 pm
4.	Consider Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Water and Wastewater Resource Chapters of the Draft 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report	2:00 pm
5.	Consider Adding Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Membership	2:15 pm
6.	Presentation on Hydrologic Restoration in a Semi-Arid Environment by George Kendall, Member representative of the Farm Bureau and Devin Best, Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD	2:30 pm
7.	Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions	2:55 pm
8.	Discuss Future Agenda Items and Agendize Status Updates from Member Stakeholders	3:10 pm
9.	Public Comment	3:20 pm

--- Adjourn by 3:30 pm ---

Next Regular Meeting:           October 3, 2018  
  City/County Library Community Room  
  995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

<http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee>

**Purpose of the Committee:**

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific water resource and water conservation programs with recognition of the economic and environmental values of the programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

*Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated August 15, 2017*

## MINUTES (DRAFT)

Chairperson: Andy Pease  
Vice Chairperson: Linda Seifert  
Secretary: Ray Dienzo

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **June 6, 2018** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: <http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/Advisory%20Committee>

Call to order at 1:30PM.

1. Determination of a Quorum and Introductions

A quorum of 16 is established (12 is required).

2. Approval of May 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A motion by member B. Garfinkel and a second by L. Seifert moves to approve the May meeting minutes with no changes. Minutes approved (15-0-1).

3. Ongoing Updates:

a. Rain & Reservoir Report

Member A. Pease notes that the rain year will end at about 50-70% of normal amounts.

SLO City Staff A. Floyd mentions an update on the safe annual yield of the Salinas and Whale Rock Reservoir.

Guest Patricia Wilmore inquiries about the selling of unused Nacimiento water.

b. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

Member A. Pease notes the changes in groundwater basin priorities within SLO County.

c. Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP)

County Staff S. Crable mentions a stakeholder public meeting for the Stormwater Resource Plan located at the SLO Library Community Room on September 6, 2018 9:00AM.

County Staff B. Clark provides updates on the status of the 2018 Plan Update and the first round of Proposition 1 grants. The next meeting will be held at the SLO Library Community Room on August 1, 2018.

d. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

There are no comments.

e. Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

There are no comments.

4. Presentation on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems by Central Coast Salmon Enhancement and Stillwater Sciences

Presentation about the groundwater dependent ecosystems as a beneficial use for SGMA. Groundwater dependent ecosystems exist when the surface flow for the aquatic environment is hydrologically connected to the groundwater basin.

5. Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions

Member L. Chipping reports that the urban water conservation measures are the ones that received the greatest support. The easy to implement urban water conservation measures have already been exhausted, other conservation efforts and programs are needed.

6. Discuss Future Agenda Items and Agendize Status Updates from member Stakeholders

County Staff R. Dienzo suggests agendizing updates regarding water related issues from different stakeholders.

7. Public Comment

Member C. Mulholland commend a previous WRAC member, Joy Fitzhugh, for placing 1,779 acres under conservation easement.

Guest Patricia Wilmore mentions issues regarding water conservation for agriculture will be addressed in the GSP.

County Staff R. Dienzo mentions solicitation for an environmental at-large member alternate replacement, after the resignation of Della Barrett.

Meeting adjourns at 3:10PM.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee - Roll Call Vote Form**  
**Meeting Date: 6/06/18**

Organization	Representative		MOTION 1				MOTION 2				MOTION 3				MOTION 4			
			AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT												
<b>DISTRICT</b>																		
District 1	Dennis Loucks	M	X															
	(Vacant)	A																
District 2	Bill Garfinkel	M	X															
	Neal MacDougall	A																
District 3	Linda Seifert	M	X															
	Natalie Risner	A																
District 4	Jim Garing	M																
	(Vacant)	A																
District 5	Greg Grewal	M	X															
	Erin Faulkner	A																
<b>AT-LARGE</b>																		
Agriculture At-Large	Kurt Bollinger	M																
	Patrick Williams	A																
Agriculture At-Large	Jason Yeager	M	X															
	Steve Lohr	A																
Development At-Large	Greg Nester	M																
	Tim Walters	A	X															
Environmental At-Large	Sue Luft	M	X															
	Christine Mulholland	A																
Environmental At-Large	Eric Greening	M	X															
	(Vacant)	A																
Environmental At-Large	David Chipping	M	X															
	Stephnie Wald	A																
<b>RCDs</b>																		
Coastal San Luis RCD	Linda Chipping	M	X															
	Rob Rutherford	A																
Upper Salinas RCD	Michael Broadhurst	M																
	Tom Mora	A																
<b>OTHERS</b>																		
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil	M																
	Jaime Hendrickson	A																
California Men's Colony	Scott Buffaloe	M																
	Mike Schwartz	A																
Camp SLO	John Reid	M	X															
	Jubilee Satele	A																
County Farm Bureau	George Kendall	M			X													
	Joy Fitzhugh	A																
Cuesta College	(Vacant)	M																
	(Vacant)	A																
Golden State Water	Anthony Lindstrom	M																
	Matthew Hubbard	A																
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Stephen Sinton	M																
	Kevin Peck	A																
<b>CITIES</b>																		
City of Arroyo Grande	Barbara Harmon	M																
	Kristen Barneich	A																
City of Atascadero	Roberta Fonzi	M																
	Nick DeBar	A																
City of Grover Beach	Debbie Peterson	M																
	Jeff Lee	A																
City of Morro Bay	Matt Makowetski	M																
	Rob Livick	A																
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M																
	Kirk Gonzales	A																
City of Pismo Beach	Marcia Guthrie	M	X															
	Sheila Blake	A																
City of San Luis Obispo	Andy Pease	M	X															
	Aaron Gomez	A																
<b>CSDs</b>																		
Avila Beach CSD	Brad Hagemann	M																
	(Vacant)	A																
Cambria CSD	Bob Gresens	M																
	Jerry Gruber	A																
Heritage Ranch CSD	Scott Duffield	M	X															
	Jason Molinari	A																
Los Osos CSD	Chuck Cesena	M																
	Renee Osborne	A																
Nipomo CSD	Craig Armstrong	M	X															
	Ed Eby	A																
Oceano CSD	James Coalwell	M																
	Andrew Brunet	A																
San Miguel CSD	Anthony Kalvans	M																
	Dan Gilmore	A																
San Simeon CSD	Charles Grace	M																
	Renee Osborne	A																
Templeton CSD	Tina Mayer	M																
	Navid Fardanesh	A																
			15		1													

QUORUM (MIN. 12) : 16

**MOTION 1**

Item #: 2 Pass/Fail?: Pass

Motion Maker: B. Garfinkel Second: L. Seifert

AYE: 15 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 1 ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approve May Meeting Minutes - No Changes.**

**MOTION 2**

Item #: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass/Fail?: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Maker: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

AYE: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 3**

Item #: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass/Fail?: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Maker: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

AYE: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION 4**

Item #: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass/Fail?: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Maker: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

AYE: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC) 2018

Organization	Representative	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>SUPERVISOR DISTRICT</b>														
District 1	Dennis Loucks (Vacant)	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
District 2	Bill Garfinkel Neal MacDougall	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
District 3	Linda Seifert Natalie Risner	M A			X		X	X						
District 4	Jim Garing (Vacant)	M A				X	X							
District 5	Greg Grewal Erin Faulkner	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>AT-LARGE</b>														
Agriculture At-Large	Kurt Bollinger Patrick Williams	M A			X									
Agriculture At-Large	Jason Yeager Steve Lohr	M A		X		X	X	X						
Development At-Large	Greg Nester Tim Walters	M A		X		X	X	X						
Environmental At-Large	Sue Luft Christine Mulholland	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
Environmental At-Large	Eric Greening (Vacant)	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
Environmental At-Large	David Chipping Stephnie Wald	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>RCDs</b>														
Coastal San Luis RCD	Linda Chipping Rob Rutherford	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
Upper Salinas RCD	Michael Broadhurst Tom Mora Devin Best	M A O		X	X	X			X					
<b>OTHERS</b>														
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil Jaime Hendrickson	M A		X	X	X		X						
California Men's Colony	Scott Buffaloe Mike Schwartz	M A												
Camp SLO	John Reid Jubilee Satele	M A			X	X	X	X						
County Farm Bureau	George Kendall James Green	M A		X	X	X		X						
Cuesta College	(Vacant) (Vacant)	M A												
Golden State Water	Anthony Lindstrom Matthew Hubbard	M A		X	X									
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Stephen Sinton Kevin Peck	M A		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>CITIES</b>														
City of Arroyo Grande	Barbara Harmon Kristen Barneich	M A		X	X		X							
City of Atascadero	Roberta Fonzi Nick DeBar	M A												
City of Grover Beach	Debbie Peterson Jeff Lee	M A		X										
City of Morro Bay	Matt Makowetski Rob Livick	M A												
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel Kirk Gonzalez Keith Larson	M A O		X										
City of Pismo Beach	Marcia Guthrie Sheila Blake Chad Stoehr	M A O			X		X	X						
City of San Luis Obispo	Andy Pease Aaron Gomez Aaron Floyd Carrie Mattingly Dean Furakawa Mychal Boerman	M A O O O O		X	X	X	X	X						
<b>CSDs</b>														
Avila Beach CSD	Brad Hagemann (Vacant)	M A												
Cambria CSD	Bob Gresens Jerry Gruber Amanda Rice	M A O												
Heritage Ranch CSD	Scott Duffied Jason Molinari	M A						X						
Los Osos CSD	Chuck Cesena Renee Osborne	M A												
Nipomo CSD	Craig Armstrong Ed Eby Mario Iglesias	M A O		X	X	X	X	X						
Oceano CSD	James Coalwell Andrew Brunet Paavo Ogren	M A O				X								
San Miguel CSD	Anthony Kalvans Dan Gilmore	M A												
San Simeon CSD	Charles Grace Renee Osborne	M A												
Templeton CSD	Tina Mayer Navid Fardanesh	M A		X										
<b>STAFF</b>														
Board of Supervisors	Jen Caffee	Staff												
Agricultural Commissioner	Lynda Auchinachie	Staff		X		X	X							
Planning and Building	Megan Martin Jane Kim Brian Pedrotti	Staff Staff Staff		X	X		X							
Public Health Services	Leslie Terry Megan Lillich	Staff Staff												
Public Works	Courtney Howard Ray Dienzo Carolyn Berg Mladen Bandov Angela Ruberto	Staff Staff Staff Staff Staff		X	X	X	X	X						
		Staff		X										

Notes: M = Member; A = Alternate Member; O = Other Representative (Staff, Council, Board, etc.)

**WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)  
GUEST LIST 2018**

Signing-in is voluntary. You may attend the meeting regardless of whether you sign-in.

NAME	AFFILIATION (if any)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mark Battany	UC Cooperative Extension	/						/	/				
Carolyn Winfrey	Cambria CSD	/						/	/				
Henry Krzciuk	San Simeon Resident	/						/	/				
James Green	SLO Co. Farm Bureau	/		X	X	X	X	/	/				
Marcia Guthrie	Pismo Beach	/						/	/				
Lynette Tomatzky	Resident Los Osos	/	X					/	/				
Steve McMasters	County Planning	/						/	/				
Patricia Wilmore	Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance	/	X	X	X	X	X	/	/				
Derrick Williams	HydroMetrics WRI	/						/	/				
Tori Poppenheimer	Protect Price Canyon	/						/	/				
Linda Poppenheimer	Protect Price Canyon	/						/	/				
Anthony Severy	Cannon Corp	/						/	/				
Dan Heimel	WSC	/						/	/				
Steve Sinton	Shandon	/						/	/				
M. Lucey	Oceano Community	/						/	/				
Emily Iskin	WSC	/						/	/				
John Wallace	WG	/						/	/				
Claudia Engel		/						/	/				
Jean-Pierre Wolff	RWQCB	/						/	/				
Willy Cunha	Shandon-San Juan Water District	/	X					/	/				
Linda Jeiferz		/	X					/	/				
Joha Suyder		/	X					/	/				
Natalie Risner		/	X					/	/				
Dan Hechel	WSC	/	X					/	/				
Christine Halley	Sentinel Peak Resources	/				X		/	/				
Cheryl Cunuay	Cayucos Advisory Council	/					X	/	/				
Brendan Clark	SLO Public Works	/					X	/	/				
Sarah Crable	SLO Public Works	/					X	/	/				
Colt Esenwein	SLO Public Works	/					X	/	/				
Don Chartram	Central Coast Salmon Enhancement	/					X	/	/				
Mary Margaret McGuine	SSCSD	/				X	X	/	/				
Devin Best	USLTRCD	/					X	/	/				
Kendall Stahl	Water Systems Consulting	/					X	/	/				
		/						/	/				
		/						/	/				

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer**

**DATE: September 5, 2018**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3: Ongoing Updates**

**Recommendation**

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

**Discussion**

- a) **Rain & Reservoir Report:** See attached report.
- b) **Groundwater Basin Management Efforts**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS AND BASIN UPDATES:**

<b>Basin</b>	<b>Update:</b>
<b>SGMA General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County staff anticipates providing bimonthly SGMA updates to the County Board of Supervisors starting on October 2, 2018. These updates will serve as reports on the implementation of SGMA efforts in six local priority basins.</li> </ul>
<b>Los Osos Basin Fringe Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Flood Control District is currently working on the Basin Boundary Modification Request (BBMR) application to DWR. Draft copies of the characterization study and the BBMR technical reports for the basin fringe areas are both available for viewing and comments online at: <a href="https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/SGMA/lososos/">https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/SGMA/lososos/</a></li> <li>• The County Board formally initiated the DWR BBMR application on June 5, 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>Atascadero Basin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the Atascadero Basin specific efforts by attending meetings of the Atascadero Basin GSA Executive Committee (EC).</li> <li>• The next meeting of the EC is October 3, 2018, where they will consider whether to continue with development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Atascadero Basin, pending finalization of DWR's re-prioritization of the basin to "very low priority" which would no longer require SGMA compliance, but make it voluntary.</li> <li>• In addition to the County's Atascadero SGMA Page, further updates on the Atascadero Basin GSA can be found by visiting: <a href="http://atascaderobasin.com/">http://atascaderobasin.com/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Santa Maria Basin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Flood Control District is currently working on the Basin Boundary Modification Request (BBMR) application to DWR. Copies of the</li> </ul>

<p><b>Fringe Area</b></p>	<p>characterization study and the BBMR technical reports for the basin fringe areas are both available online at:  <a href="https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/SGMA/santamaria/">https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/SGMA/santamaria/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is anticipated that the BBMR application will be submitted to DWR at the end of August. Written comments to the BBMR may be sent to the County or to DWR. The comment period will close 30 days after DWR has posted the BBMR on-line on its website (<a href="https://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/">https://sgma.water.ca.gov/basinmod/</a>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Paso Robles Basin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the Paso Basin specific efforts by attending meetings of the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (CC).</li> <li>• The next meeting of the CC is September 12, 2018, where they will receive interim Draft GSP sections from the GSP Consultant.</li> <li>• The GSP Consultant for the Paso Basin develops interim Draft GSP Sections to publicly vet information, findings and approaches which will be leveraged in developing a GSP. Draft GSP Sections and corresponding Comment Forms will be posted to:  <a href="http://www.pasobasingcp.com">www.pasobasingcp.com</a>  <a href="http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma">www.slocountywater.org/sgma</a></li> <li>• Public comments received during the comment period will be considered when draft final GSP Sections are incorporated into the compiled Public Draft GSP, slated for public review in Summer 2019.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cuyama Basin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the basin specific efforts by attending the meetings of the Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors and/or its Stakeholder Advisory Committee.</li> <li>• Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors holds regular meetings on the 1st Wednesday of every month starting at 4pm in New Cuyama, California. The next GSA Board meeting is September 5, 2018 and will discuss groundwater sustainability plan, groundwater model, outreach, and budget. A community workshop will follow the Board meeting starting at 6:30pm.</li> </ul>
<p><b>San Luis Obispo Basin</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interested parties are encouraged to participate in the basin specific efforts by attending the meetings of the Groundwater Sustainability Commission of the San Luis Obispo Basin (Commission).</li> <li>• The Commission cancelled its regular meeting on September 12, 2018. The next regular meeting is scheduled on December 12, 2018.</li> <li>• The Commission Consultant Selection Committee is currently working on retaining a consultant to develop a groundwater sustainability plan. The procurement process is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2018 or early 2019.</li> </ul>

The following are important recent updates and/or deadlines related to the State Water Resources Control Board and the **California Department of Water Resources' (DWR)** efforts on SGMA:

- **May 18, 2018 – DWR Releases Draft Prioritization of Groundwater Basins Under Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.** For more information, please visit: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization>  
DWR's Draft Prioritization recommends designating the Los Osos Basin and the Atascadero Basin as very low priority; however, DWR may change these designations prior to final publication.

**County SGMA website** - An interactive mapping tool is available for each medium and high priority basin in the county. Residents can verify whether a specific parcel is within a priority basin boundary, and, therefore, whether the parcel is subject to SGMA requirements. The website also includes other informative materials, such as SGMA fact sheets and recent presentation materials. Visit the website to sign up for the County's SGMA email list, and to visit basin-specific pages at: [www.slocountywater.org/sgma](http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma)

WRAC members and interested stakeholders are encouraged to join the various mailing lists for groundwater basin management efforts:

**San Luis Obispo County's SGMA Mailing List**  
<http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma>

**California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Mailing List**  
<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>

#### **c) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)**

The IRWM plan is currently being updated to the latest DWR standards. It is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

The first round of Proposition 1 IRWM Grants is anticipated to begin this fall with the release of the draft proposal solicitation package in late September. The final grant guidelines should be released in December 2018.

#### **Next RWMG meeting:**

Date: Wednesday October 3rd, 2018 10 AM -12 PM

Location: City of San Luis Obispo/SLO County Library Community Room  
995 Palm St., San Luis Obispo

Topics: The meeting will include a review of the recently submitted project lists update and, pending its release by DWR, the draft Prop. 1 IRWM grant guidelines.

For questions, contact:

Brendan Clark, IRWM Program Manager

Email: [bclark@co.slo.ca.gov](mailto:bclark@co.slo.ca.gov)

Phone: (805) 788-2316

#### **d) Stormwater Resource Plan**

Public agencies are now required to develop a Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) as a condition of receiving grant funds from a state bond approved after January 2014 for stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects (Water Code section 10563).

A collaborative effort by multiple agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to develop a region-wide SWRP is underway with funding in part from grants administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources.

The intent of the SWRP is to encourage the use of runoff as a resource to improve water quality, increase water supply reliability including groundwater recharge, reduce flooding risks, protect and enhance environmental resources, and provide opportunities for community involvement. The SWRP identifies and prioritizes stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects using a metrics-based and integrated evaluation and analysis of multiple benefits on a watershed basis.

The draft SWRP will be released for public comment from **September 10 through October 10, 2018**, which will be available online at

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/SWRP>

Community members are invited to attend a meeting to review and provide input of the draft plan:

**SWRP Draft Review Meeting**

Date: Thursday September 20, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: SLO City/County Library Community Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

Online: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/984305653>

For questions, please contact:

Larissa Clarke, SWRP Project Manager

Email: [lclarke@coastalrcd.org](mailto:lclarke@coastalrcd.org)

Phone: (805) 772-4391

**e) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances**

**1. COUNTYWIDE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

<http://www.slocountywwcp.org>

Following approval by the Board of Supervisors on July 11, 2017 to amend the Turf Removal Incentive Program (“cash for grass”) and the Plumbing Retrofit Program of the adopted Countywide Water Conservation Program (Resolution 2016-288) staff revealed the new Water Conservation Program website (url and link above). The website is an improvement on the old Paso Basin website as it provides a much more user-friendly, geographically based, navigation approach. Users simply select the geographic area they reside (Paso, Nipomo, Los Osos), and choose which program they are interested in learning more about (Ag offset,

plumbing retrofit, cash for grass). For any questions or if anyone has any comments or suggestions on the new website, please contact Megan Martin (805) 781-4163.

- a. **Paso Robles Groundwater Basin** – The County is continuing to process building permits that are subject to the fees of the PRGWB. The Cash for Grass program offers \$1 per square foot up to a maximum rebate amount of \$6,000 per household. The Washer Rebate Program offers \$250 per household when replacing an old washer with a new water efficient washer (replacement must save at least 15 gallons). The Plumbing Retrofit Program offers homeowners the opportunity to replace old fixtures with new water efficient fixtures in their homes (limited to 2 toilets, 2 showerheads, and 2 faucet aerators) at no cost from the homeowner.
- b. **Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area** – The County is continuing to process building permits subject to the fees of the NMWCA. The Cash for Grass program offers \$1 per square foot up to a maximum rebate amount of \$6,000 per household. The Washer Rebate Program offers \$250 per household when replacing an old washer with a new water efficient washer (replacement must save at least 15 gallons). The Plumbing Retrofit Program offers homeowners the opportunity to replace old fixtures with new water efficient fixtures in their homes (limited to 2 toilets, 2 showerheads, and 2 faucet aerators) at no cost from the homeowner.
- c. **Los Osos** – The retrofit to build and retrofit on sale program within the community of Los Osos is allowing property owners to retrofit washers within and outside the prohibition zone to acquire retrofit credits. At this time, to earn enough credits to build one single family residence (300 credits), a property owner would need to replace 6-8 washers; a total cost ranging between \$4,000-\$6,000.

**f) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information**

WRAC members or members of the public may openly report on any topic related to water conservation including opportunities to be a part of a water conservation focus group, reporting back on water conservation groups that they are a part of, or providing information on water conservation items.

## Rainfall and Reservoir Update

Sub-Region	Area / Rain Station	Average Annual Rainfall	2017-18 Water Year Total Rainfall	2018-19 Water Year												Cumulative Total	% of Total Average
				July 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19		
North Coast	Cambria (ALERT #717)	22.0	14.8 (67%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Whale Rock Reservoir (County Site #166.1)	16.0	11.6 (72%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
Inland	Paso Robles (County Site #10.0)	14.1	10.8 (76%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	NE Atascadero (ALERT #711)	17.0	9.1 (54%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Atascadero MWC (County Site #34.0)	17.5	12.2 (70%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Santa Margarita (ALERT #723)	24.0	13.8 (57%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Salinas Dam (County Site #94)	20.9	13.8 (66%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
South Coast	SLO Reservoir (ALERT #749)	24.0	13.1 (55%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Lopez Dam (ALERT #737)	21.0	11.7 (56%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Nipomo South (ALERT #730)	16.0	8.8 (55%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%
	Nipomo East (ALERT #728)	18.0	9.6 (53%)	0	0 <sup>A</sup>											0	0%

A - Report generated at 10:00 A.M. on 08/28/2018

B - Due to an equipment malfunction, not all rain was recorded at this site.

Notes:

This table contains provisional data from automated gauges and has not been verified.  
All units reported in inches.

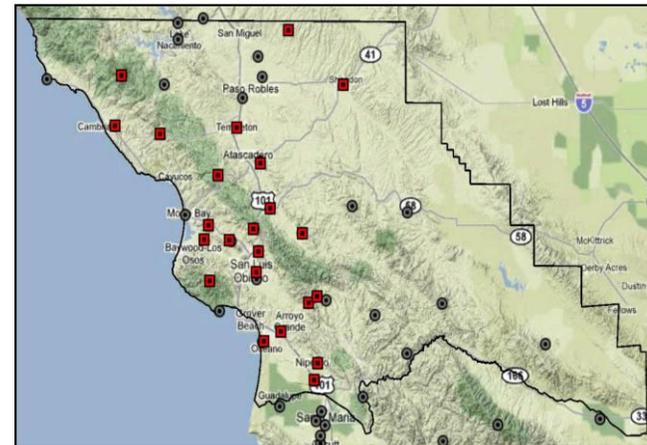
## Reservoir Update

Reservoir	Date	Water Elevation (ft)	Spillway Elevation (ft)	Storage (acre-feet)	Capacity (%)
Nacimiento Reservoir	August 27, 2018	721.4	787.75 - 800.0 (w/gates fully inflated)	71,903	19%
	August 27, 2017	767.4			
Lopez Reservoir	August 27, 2018	485.0	522.7	22,209	45%
	August 27, 2017	496.0			
Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake)	August 28, 2018	1,295.0	1300.7	19,870	83%
	August 28, 2017	1,296.9			
Whale Rock Reservoir	August 24, 2018	198.7	218.3	29,654	76%
	August 24, 2017	199.6			
Twitchell Reservoir	August 28, 2018	N/A	651.5	0	0%
	August 31, 2017	599.7			

**Note 1:** Historically, Twitchell Reservoir elevation gauge does not report values below 539 ft. Twitchell Reservoir was designed for protection from flood and drought. Excess rain runoff is stored in the reservoir protecting the valley from flood, then water is released as quickly as possible while still allowing it to recharge the groundwater basin.

**Note 2:** In May 2014, the Whale Rock Commission adopted a new Bathymetric Study and Volumetric Analysis with new lake capacity and spillway elevation values. Those new values are reflected in this report.

## Select Real-Time Rain Gauges in SLO County



Notes:

Sites maintained by County staff are identified with red squares.  
Sites maintained by other agencies are identified with black circles.  
For more information, please contact Dustin Idler, (805)781-5272.

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Ben Schuster, Planner;  
Brian Pedrotti, Planner**

**DATE: September 5, 2018**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 4: Consider Forming a Subcommittee to Review the Water and Wastewater Resource Chapters of the Draft 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report**

### **Recommendation**

Consider Forming a Subcommittee to review the Water and Wastewater Resource Chapters of the Draft 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report to and provide input to County Planning Staff for incorporation into the final 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report.

### **Discussion**

Planning Staff intends to provide a brief overview of the Resource Management System and Resource Summary Report, give a brief update on the 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report, and to ask that the Water Resource Advisory Committee consider forming a subcommittee to review the water and wastewater resource sections of the Resource Summary Report.

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**  
**FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer, and Secretary**  
**DATE: September 5, 2018**  
**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 5: Consider Adding Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Membership**

**Recommendation**

Add Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District to the WRAC Membership

**Discussion**

The County of SLO Board of Supervisors on August 15, 2017 adopted revised by-laws for the Water Resources Advisory Committee. As stated in the revised by-laws Article II.1.d, Each California Water District is available for membership to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC).

On April 6, 2017, under Resolution 2017-02, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved the formation of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District(District) as a California Water District under the California Water Code, Section 34000 et seq.

The newly formed District, by their Board action on February 21, 2018 meeting, formally requested WRAC membership and have nominated Lee Nesbitt as Member and Hilary Graves as Member Alternate.

If WRAC approves membership of the Estrella- El Pomar- Creston Water District, the recommendation of Lee Nesbitt as Member and Hilary Graves as Member Alternate will go before the County of SLO Board of Supervisors meeting for formal appointment sometime October 2018.

Attachments:

- Letter dated June 28, 2018 from Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
- LAFCO Resolution 2017-02

ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON WATER DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1499, Paso Robles, CA 93447

June 27, 2018

Andy Pease, Chairperson  
Water Resources Advisory Committee  
976 Osos Street, Room 206  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

The Board of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District, at its meeting on February 21, 2018, voted unanimously to request that the District be granted membership on the San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee, as per the Committee's Bylaws adopted August 15, 2017, Article II(1)(c). We ask that our request be placed on the September WRAC agenda for consideration.

We believe that the District's participation on the Committee will bring additional input in managing the Paso Robles Basin and that the District's resources will help expand understanding the Basin and how to manage this complex resource.

Should this request be approved, we nominate Lee Nesbitt to be our representative and Hilary Graves to be the alternate representative.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Merrill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dana Merrill, President  
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District

cc: Ray Dienzo, Secretary, WRAC  
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District Board

2017056123

Tommy Gong  
San Luis Obispo - County Clerk-Recorder  
12/08/2017 10:27 AM

Recorded at the request of:  
PUBLIC

Titles: 1      Pages: 539

Fees: \$0.00  
Taxes: \$0.00  
Total: \$0.00



Recording requested by and mail to:

Executive Officer  
Local Agency Formation Commission  
1042 Pacific Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 57200 and 57201 this Certificate of Completion is hereby issued by the Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission of San Luis Obispo County, California.

1. The short-form name designation by San Luis Obispo LAFCO is the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
2. The name of the entity involved in this action and the kind or type of action ordered for the entity is as follows:

**Formation of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District**

3. The above-listed entity is located within San Luis Obispo County.
4. A description of the boundaries of the above-cited formation is shown in the attached Resolution, map and legal description, marked Exhibits A and B and by reference incorporated herein.
5. The formation of this landowner-voter district was subject to the protest process which has been completed pursuant to Government Code Section 57000.
6. This formation has been approved the Local Agency Formation Commission and is subject to the conditions of approval found in attached Resolution No. 2017-02.
7. The formation of this district is ordered by the Local Agency Formation Commission as approved by the landowners within the service area boundaries pursuant to the election results certified on October 25, 2017. The effective date of this action is the date this certificate of completion is recorded by the County Clerk.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above-cited resolution for this action and have found this document to be in compliance with Resolution No. 2017-02 approving said action and adopted by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of San Luis Obispo on April 6, 2017.

Date: 12-8-17

LAFCO File No: 4-R-16

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Church  
Executive Officer

**IN THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Date: April 6, 2017

**PRESENT:** CHAIRMAN MARSHALL OCHYLSKI, VICE-CHAIRMAN ED WAAGE,  
COMMISSIONERS DEBBIE ARNOLD, LYNN COMPTON, ROBERT ENNS,  
ROBERTA FONZI, AND TOM MURRAY AND ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER  
HEATHER JENSEN

**ABSENT:** ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS ADAM HILL AND JAMIE IRONS

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02**

**RESOLUTION MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND APPROVING THE  
FORMATION OF THE ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON WATER DISTRICT, SPHERE OF  
INFLUENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

The following resolution is now offered:

**WHEREAS**, a Petition of Application signed by 100 percent of the landowners in the proposed Water District was filed with the Commission to initiate the change of organization to form the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District; and

**WHEREAS**, application has been made to this Commission pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Sections 56000 et seq.) for consideration of a proposal for the formation of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District as shown in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the formation of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District, a Water District as defined in the California Water Code, Section 34000 et seq., has been filed with the Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission of San Luis Obispo County, California by petition, and said application complied with all the requirements of law and the Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Officer has given the notices required by law and forwarded copies of his report to officers, persons and public agencies prescribed by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the matter was set and noticed for public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on April 6<sup>th</sup> in the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors Chambers; and

**WHEREAS**, this Commission has considered the application materials, studies,

attachments, and other documentation at the April 6, 2017 public hearings which is incorporated by reference herein; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 6, 2017 this Commission heard and received, all oral and written protests, objections and evidence, which were made, presented or filed, and all persons present were given the opportunity to hear and be heard in respect to any matter concerning this proposal; and

**WHEREAS** the Commission hereby finds that the formation of Water District will not have a significant effect on the environment, and is Categorical Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under 15378(b)(4). Additionally, the SOI qualifies for a general rule exemption from environmental review based upon CEQA Regulation Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15262.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission duly considered the proposal and finds that the formation should be approved with the following conditions:

1. That the name of the Water District shall be the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District.
2. That the Board of Directors of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District be composed of five members elected as provided for in the California Water District Law, Water Code Section 34000 et. seq. The initial Board of Directors will be elected pursuant to the Water Code sections 34700; and
3. That pursuant to the applicable Water Code Sections the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District is authorized to exercise all powers and authorities subject to the following restrictions:
  - a. The Water District's powers to export, transfer, or move water underlying the Water District outside the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin shall not be active and are subject to condition number five of this approval. For purposes of this Condition and Condition number five, "groundwater" shall have the meaning set forth in Water Code Section 10721(g).
  - b. The Water District's powers under Part 5 Powers and Purpose; Chapter 2; Powers; Article 5; Sewers: [35500 - 35509] of the California Water Code shall be deemed inactive or latent. The Water District could request that LAFCO activate these powers in the future.

4. That formation of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District shall be contingent upon a successful vote on the formation pursuant to Water Code Section 34500 and the EPC Water District completing a successful benefit assessment to fund the activities of the Water District. If the Proposition 218 proceeding is not successfully conducted by the Water District within one year of the certificate of completion, the Water District shall be subject to dissolution. LAFCO may extend this deadline upon request by the Water District.
5. The EPC Water District shall be prohibited from exporting, transferring, or moving water underlying the Water District (including groundwater pumped into an above ground storage facility) to areas outside of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.
6. That specific projects proposed by the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District shall be analyzed and evaluated in accordance with applicable laws prior to construction.
7. That a revised legal description and boundary map(s) be submitted to reflect the service area and sphere of influence boundaries of the Water District as adopted by the Commission.
8. That the effective date of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District will be determined by the certification of the election results by the Board of Supervisors and the filing of the certificate of completion by the LAFCO Executive Officer with the County Clerk-Recorder's office.
9. That the EPC Water District set the appropriations limit as soon as feasibly possible consistent with Government Code Section 57000.
10. That the Sphere of Influence of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District shall be co-terminus to the Service Area boundary. Future amendments and/or updates of the SOI shall only include properties that have submitted written landowner consent.
11. The Water District, if formed, shall provide documentation that it has been identified as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), or a GSA partner, pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Water Code section 10720 et. seq. If the District does not become a GSA, or is not part of a GSA within one year of the Certificate of Completion being filed, the District shall be dissolved. LAFCO may extend this deadline upon request by the District.
12. This condition applies to any proposed annexation to the San Miguel CSD for areas that are within the EPC District. If LAFCO approves such an annexation, the SMCSO may apply to DWR to become the GSA. As part of the annexation, the area shall be detached from the EPC Water District.

13. The EPC Water District shall develop policies insuring that any existing or future water wells do not interfere or are detrimental to the San Miguel CSD's existing or future water wells. The Districts shall work together to avoid well interference. This policy shall be further detailed in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the San Luis Obispo County Local Agency Formation Commission determines the following:

1. The territory comprises approximately 37,500 acres and is found to be inhabited (having more than twelve registered voters) as defined in §56046 of the Government Code.
2. The formation of the District is assigned the following distinctive short-form designation: **Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District**
3. Based on the evidence, analysis, and conclusions set forth in this resolution and the Executive Officer's report, the Commission finds that the formation of this District serves to further the purposes of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 including, but not limited to, the following: efficiently providing government services and facilitating the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances.
4. The Commission determines, based upon the services currently provided to the affected territory, that the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District can feasibly provide the needed services in a more efficient and accountable manner than the County of San Luis Obispo.
5. The Commission adopts the determinations regarding consistency with LAFCO law and Commission Policies contained in the staff report for this proposal and incorporates the staff report, and attachments by reference herein.
6. The affected territory within which the special election shall be held includes the entire area within the boundaries of the proposed Water District, as described by Exhibit A attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, as follows:

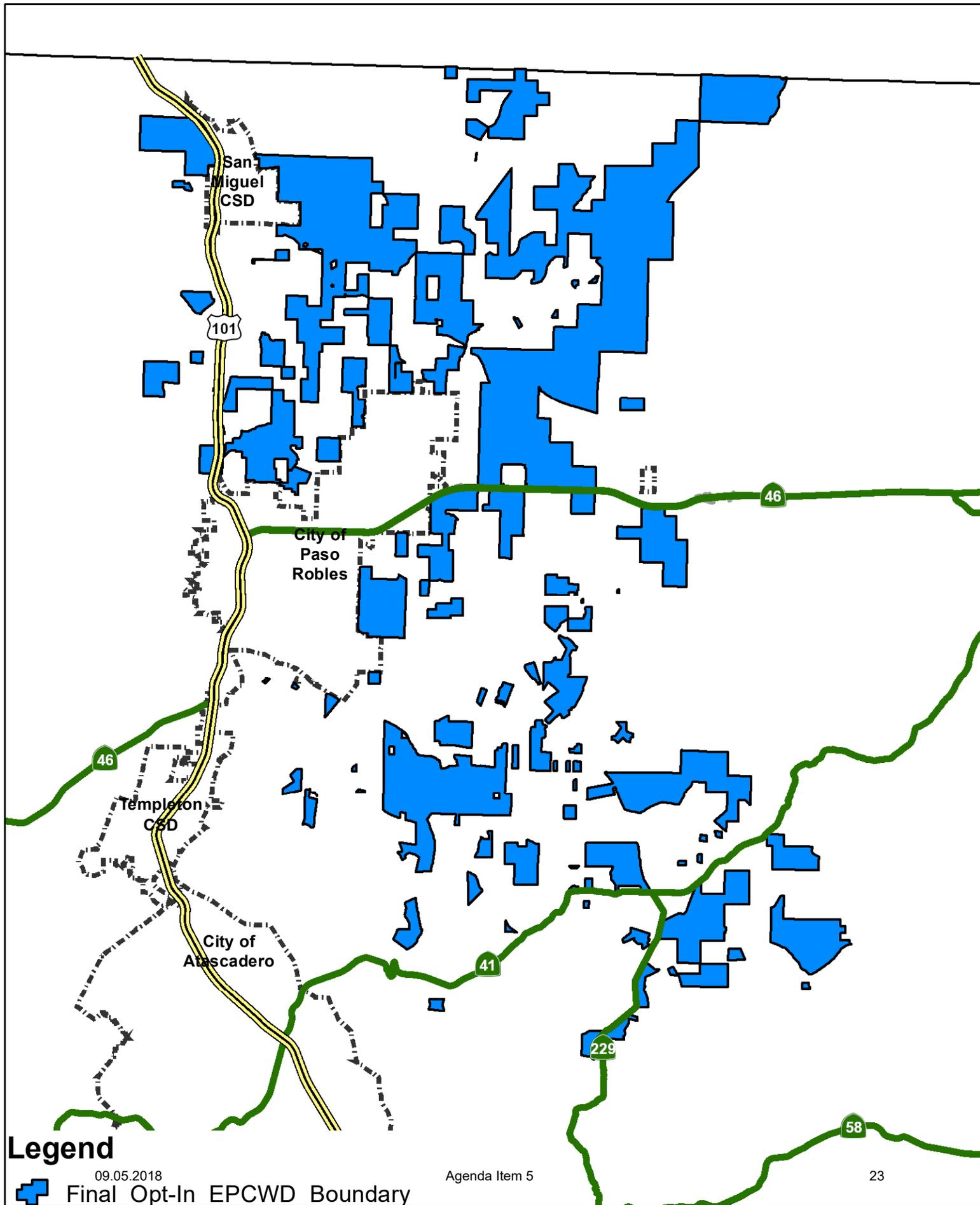
1. That the recitals set forth hereinabove are true, correct, and valid.
2. That the Categorical Exemption prepared for this project is hereby approved as complete and adequate and as having been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. The Executive Officer, on behalf of the Commission and in compliance with this resolution and State law, hereby requests that the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors direct the County Elections Official to conduct the necessary election, setting the matter for consideration of the voters of the affected territory on a date



## **Exhibit A**

### Map and Legal Description of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District

# Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District Approved Service Area & Sphere of Influence



## Legend

09.05.2018  
Final Opt-In EPCWD Boundary

Agenda Item 5

23

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer**

**DATE: September 5, 2018**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7: Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions**

### **Recommendation**

Receive Report from Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Additional Water Conservation Measures that can be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for Their Consideration and Consider Actions

### **Discussion**

During the WRAC meeting March 7, 2018, a Water Conservation Subcommittee was formed to develop recommendations on additional water conservation measures that can be recommended to the Board of Supervisors. Andy Pease, David Chipping, Linda Chipping, Linda Seifert, and Steph Wald volunteered to participate in the sub-committee. George Kendall has joined the subcommittee for the July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> meetings.

The committee initially met on May 9, 2018. The attached report summarizes results from the July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting; see attachment.

The Farm Bureau also wanted to offer input regarding water conservation in the agricultural industry and have submitted a letter for the WRAC for consideration; see attached.

#### Attachments:

- Report to WRAC from the Subcommittee on Water Conservation
- Letter from the Farm Bureau dated August 29, 2018

## REPORT TO WRAC FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER CONSERVATION

### **INTRODUCTION**

The WRAC Water Conservation Ad Hoc Subcommittee met on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>. The instructions to the subcommittee were to examine water conservation in general and at different scales for various classes of users. A literature and web search yields numerous sites dealing with water conservation at the household level, especially from areas where drought usage restrictions were in effect. Therefore, this report touches on these well addressed issues first. Building on our initial May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, we met with County Planning Department Staff to learn about and discuss past, present and future county programs and efforts. Some of this is included below in discussion of mandatory county conservation requirements outlined in Titles 8, 19, and 22 of the Land Use Ordinance (LUO).

The subcommittee also recognizes that the Sustainable Groundwater Agencies (SGAs) established in the medium and high priority basins within the county will be responsible for developing water use expectations for their respective areas, but not necessarily the specific *strategies* for reduction. The subcommittee concern is for water conservation and reuse for the county overall, but some programs may only be applicable for the remainder of the county where low priority groundwater basins exist or water is derived from fractured rock.

Water conservation planning for optimal effect is best served by consideration of net water savings as a total volume rather than a percentage reduction. For example, the 'low-hanging fruit' of indoor plumbing fixtures has mostly been addressed at the State level through building codes. To upgrade a 1.6 gal/flush toilet to a 1.28 gal/flush would save 2,000 gal/year for a family of four. By contrast, irrigation for ornamental landscaping provides opportunity for more savings, depending on the area of irrigation. Converting a 30'x30' lawn to drought tolerant landscape could save 15,000 gal/year. We also come to recognize that the most effective savings may come not from the above, but from agriculture, where even a 5% reduction of irrigation for a five-acre could be 200,000 gal/year.

Locally, typical water use for a crop is in the range of 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 acre feet per year (af/yr), but can use as much as 4 af/yr for a high-water crop such as alfalfa. Five percent of 2-1/2 af/yr is 40,625 gallons.

The work of the committee is focused in three main areas:

1. Urban Residential & Commercial Conservation
2. Agricultural Conservation
3. Increase Groundwater Recharge

### **1. URBAN RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CONSERVATION**

'Low Hanging Fruit' household and yard conservation suggestions are readily found on the internet. Good examples are the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County web sites, where both advisory information and implemented mandatory actions are presented. See Note A at the end of this report for examples of their website advisory measures.

### Current County Programs

Retrofit-to-Build Program (Title 19) Los Osos. Offset program for all new development, using a 2:1 ratio.

State mandated New Development Landscaping Water Conservation (Title 19). This requirement has loopholes. At time of application/permit, a developer can avoid fees by declaring that landscaping is not a part of the development. Therefore, any landscape installation done after construction permit signoff is not subject to mandated conservation requirements.

Retrofit-on-Sale Program (Title 8) Los Osos and Nipomo. Home sales must certify compliance with retrofit requirements for plumbing fixtures.

Rebates for washing machine replacement in Los Osos and Paso Robles.

Cash For Grass Program in Nipomo and Paso Robles has been expanded to include public facilities.

County staff noted that money collected for rebate programs as offset against new construction is increasing, with about \$200,000 currently available. These funds can only be used in the community where they are collected but can be diverted to other uses such as water education.

### Public Education

Develop effective messaging with 'punch' for impact to affect behaviors is an option. The subcommittee suggests considering multi-media strategies in highly impacted areas to keep public engaged to conserve water. Funds could potentially come from rebate program dollars.

### Potential New Measures for Implementation

- Driveway watering bans
- Irrigation restrictions (odd days/even days; MAWA retrofits)
- Irrigation runoff penalties
- Grey water (whole house and/or laundry) system rebates
- In-Line Drip Irrigation Conversion Rebate
- Irrigation Equipment Upgrade Rebates, including weather based irrigation controllers
- Tiered water meter pricing structures

### County Resource Management System (RMS)

The RMS provides information to guide decisions about balancing land development with the resources necessary to sustain such development. To accomplish this goal, the RMS focuses on collecting data, identifying problems, and helping decision-makers develop solutions.

Mandatory water conservation measures are implemented in a community when a Resource Management System Level of Severity III is declared for that area. The County Planning Department is currently drafting the 2016-2018 Report. WRAC has historically reviewed the draft report and provided comment on the water section. This may be an opportunity for WRAC to incorporate water conservation strategies. The subcommittee suggests that the County consider implementation of conservation measures when a basin is designated Level II.

## **2. AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION**

### Current County Programs

Agricultural Offset Program (Title 22) requires new water production wells to be metered. Historic water use is established with a prior 5-year timeline for new groundwater withdrawals to be offset by savings elsewhere.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin - All new or expanded irrigated agriculture is required to offset new water use at a 1:1 ratio.

### Conservation Measures

Determine water demands for crops, tailored to local geography and credible range of rainfall amounts and timing. This might require greater monitoring of soil moisture conditions and a reporting system that would be voluntary under current regulation, but deemed mandatory if necessary. Where possible, strive for greater irrigation efficiency improvement, which can be a win-win for farmers. They are motivated to minimize irrigation as pumping is expensive, but data will be needed to calibrate agricultural irrigation offsets and because of the significant savings achieved. Santa Clara County posts estimated crop irrigation demands, but no modification for locality. Consider incentives or requirements for reducing pond evaporation loss.

As agriculture is the largest user of groundwater, sustainable groundwater supply may require lower pumping levels, affecting growing operations and livelihoods. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency in Ventura has developed an Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Water Market Program, which will allow farmers to make a profit for conserving their water. This program requires production well metering to join the water exchange program.

Maintain an irrigation efficiency consultant program, possibly working through RCD's and the U.C. Extension Program.

Continue the county funded Mobile Irrigation Lab program and expand its capabilities to address other on-farm efficiency methods.

Develop a library of Best Management Practices, and a program to showcase built projects.

Clarification of GSA powers to enforce conservation practices. Powers of enforcement are discussed in a primer published by the McGeorge School of Law.

### **3. INCREASE GROUNDWATER RECHARGE**

The committee recognizes that to increase a sustainable water supply, conservation/water use efficiency will ultimately not be enough to support a growing population. Groundwater is the lifeline for San Luis Obispo communities and agriculture. Effective groundwater recharge is as critical to sustainability as conservation and efficient water use. Therefore, increasing groundwater recharge is essential to increase our county's water supply. Human activity and climate change have contributed to the degradation and increasingly "flashy" nature of some watersheds and hydrologic functions, reducing recharge opportunities in both rural/agricultural and urban settings.

Organizations such as the county RCDs, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the University of California Cooperative Extension are knowledgeable about restoration and recharge practices. They should be employed to develop and disseminate guidelines for groundwater recharge projects on private and public lands. Projects could be programmatic (native plant restoration) or more specific (flood plain restoration, recharge basins, etc.). Incentives to encourage projects should be researched and promoted. Storm water runoff retention on residential properties as well as capture and utilization of other urban storm water runoff should be promoted.

### **ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS**

The subcommittee briefly discussed enforcement options, noting the importance of an open conversation with those who would be impacted, before any recommendations could be suggested. Powers of enforcement are discussed in a primer published by the McGeorge School of Law.

### **MOVING FORWARD, AN END NOTE FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE**

The subcommittee realizes that exploring appropriate conservation measures will take time. We also recognize the need to continue as the wealth of information available and the resources to be tapped are many and we perceive a benefit from continued efforts.

It is important to start the dialog for implementing new requirements and programs. In doing so, it is essential and significant that we engage more stakeholders in our discussions as we move forward. Our responsibility is to report and inform the WRAC as to our work, then take direction for reaching out to other groups and interested entities.

WRAC can encourage the county to lead the way to ensure that future growth, drought or other occurrence does not adversely impact water supply and sustainability. WRAC can be proactive, as its membership is diverse and includes several GSA participants. We can share and learn from one another and present collaborative recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

We should also be aware of possible unintended consequences of water conservation. Greater efficiency in water use may have some effect on the quality and quantity of water being discharged in river systems, either due to reduced dilution of water entering

treatment plants or the reduction in outflow. Similarly runoff captured for recharge projects may be diverted from a surface water body with potential adverse effects to downstream users.

## **NOTE A**

### Household

Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks. Install water saving showerheads and ultra-low-flush toilets. Take shorter showers. Never use your toilet as a wastebasket. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving. Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator. Rinse vegetables in a full sink or pan of water. Fully load your dishwasher. Rinse dishes in a full sink or pan of water. Wash full loads of clothes. Implemented & mandatory methods: Tiered water meter pricing structures, driveway watering bans.

### Yard Conservation

Save water outdoors, don't over-water landscaping. Water your lawn or garden early in the morning or late in evening. Adjust sprinklers so that they don't water the sidewalk or street. Don't water on cool, rainy or windy days. Equip all hoses with shut-off nozzles. Use drip irrigation systems. Plant drought-tolerant or low water-use plants and grasses. Use shrubs and ground cover to reduce the amount of grass. Place mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds. Set your mower blades one notch higher, since longer grass means less evaporation. Use a pool cover to cut down on water evaporation. Use a bucket instead of a hose to wash your car. Use a broom rather than a hose to clean sidewalks, driveways, loading docks and parking lots. Implemented & mandatory methods: Tiered water meter pricing structures, scheduled irrigation bans (odd days/even days). Irrigation runoff penalties.



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

4875 MORABITO PLACE, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401

® PHONE (805) 543-3654 ▪ FAX (805) 543-3697 ▪ [www.slofarmbureau.org](http://www.slofarmbureau.org)

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August 29, 2018

Andy Pease, Chairperson  
Water Resources Advisory Committee  
County Government Center, Room 206  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Via Fax to Ray Dienzo, WRAC Secretary

Re: Water matters pertaining to agriculture

Dear Chairperson Pease

The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, representing more than 900 members, recognizes that water sustainability and quality are a top priority in San Luis Obispo County, and the entire state. Recognizing the opportunity to share information, interact with others, and explore water focused ideas, we actively participate in the San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and appreciate having input on matters that come before your Committee.

Recently, the WRAC formed a subcommittee to look at possible water conservation methods throughout the county. One of the outcomes was an examination of the agricultural industry and practices of water use and conservation. Paramount to this activity is a comprehensive understanding of practices that are well underway to utilize water in the most discriminating manner. While we recognize the spirit of making a positive impact, we think that the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) is the appropriate advisory committee to make recommendations on this subject to the Board of Supervisors, as most of its members have detailed agricultural expertise – from farm/ranch production to research and science.

Farm Bureau also participates in ALAB, and to our knowledge, ALAB has already conducted research and made recommendations regarding agricultural water conservation. We recommend that all county advisory committees and groups work together to eliminate duplication, and that agricultural issues, as with any other issue, be placed in the most appropriate committee, group or board to produce the most accurate and beneficial results.

As far as water use for agriculture, it is often combined fully or partially with environmental beneficial uses, hence the statistic that agriculture uses 80% of the state's water is simply not correct. It is another example of repetition of use that is so easily, and incorrectly, underway in the internet and social media age. U.C. Davis Public Policy Institute of California breaks down California water use in three categories: 40% agricultural net-use; 10% cities/municipalities; and 50% environmental. In the Central

Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board region (which includes San Luis Obispo County), 80% of the water use is from groundwater pumping, which includes residential, industrial, and agricultural.

Again, the ability to weigh in on the scope of any water practices and articulate best practices already identified and in use, and the unaltered actualities of San Luis Obispo County water, are among the reasons we highly value being a part of the WRAC and look forward to maintaining our participation in this important advisory committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Negranti".

Anna Negranti, President  
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

Cc: Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Ray Dienzo, Supervising Water Resources Engineer**

**DATE: September 5, 2018**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item 8: Discuss Future Agenda Items and Agendize Status Updates from Member Stakeholders**

The WRAC Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, prepares the agenda for each WRAC meeting. Inclusion of suggested future agenda items on the agenda will be limited to include review for consistency with District and Board of Supervisors priorities, the mandate of the WRAC, and available time.

**Areas of Interest**

- In-stream requirements for ecosystem species
- Projects/Programs that integrate flood management, water quality and groundwater recharge
- On-site water/energy efficiency practices (e.g. energy generating greywater systems, septic system conversions)
- Well permitting regulation as a tool for groundwater management
- Additional or expanded ordinances to increase water use efficiency
- Desalination opportunities
- Winery Water Conservation Practices
- Updates from Member Stakeholders
- Consider recommending to the Board that groundwater pumpers within groundwater basins that have Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) have direct representation within their GSA's.
- Impact of climate change on water resources

**Ongoing Updates/Regular Items** – other items not shown here can be seen in the previous month's agenda

- Groundwater basin management Updates
- Various County-led water programs, policies and ordinances
- Open reporting on water conservation opportunities and information

**Excerpt from WRAC By-laws dated August 15, 2017**

**Administration:** The Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, shall prepare the agenda for each regular and special meeting of the WRAC. Any WRAC member may contact the Secretary and Chairperson and request that an item be placed on the regular meeting agenda no later than 4:30 p.m. twelve calendar days prior to the applicable meeting date. Such a request must be also submitted in writing either at the time of communication with the Secretary or delivered to the County Public Works Department within the next working day. Consideration of the request by the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, for inclusion on the agenda will be limited to include review for consistency with District and Board of Supervisors priorities, the mandate of the WRAC, and available time.