



Draft Atascadero Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Atascadero Groundwater Subbasin Section 3

DRAFT

July 2019



Prepared for: Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
ac	Acres
Act (or SGMA)	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
AF	acre-feet
AFY	acre-feet per year
AMWC	Atascadero Mutual Water Company
ASH	Atascadero State Hospital
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
CASGEM	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
CCGC	Central Coast Groundwater Coalition
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCRWQCB	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CIMIS	California Irrigation Management Information System
County	San Luis Obispo County
CSD	Community Services District
CWWCP	Countywide Water Conservation Program
DBCP	Dibromochloropropane
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
du	Dwelling Unit
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EC	Executive Committee
ETo	Evapotranspiration
FAR	Floor Area Ratio
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment
GMP	Groundwater Management Plan
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Program
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LOS	Level of Severity
LUCE	Land Use and Circulation Element
LUFTs	Leaky Underground Fuel Tanks
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWC	Mutual Water Company
MWR	Master Water Report
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWIS	National Water Information System
pp	Projected Population
RWC	Recycled Water Policy
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SGMA	State Groundwater Management Act
SGMP	Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan
SGWP	Sustainable Groundwater Planning
SLOFCWCD	San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
SMR	Santa Margarita Ranch
SNMP	Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
Subbasin	Atascadero Subbasin
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
US	United States
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
USFW	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USTs	Underground Storage Tanks
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
WPA	Water Planning Area
WRAC	Water Resources Advisory Committee

3. Description of Plan Area (§ 354.8)

3.1 Introduction

This GSP covers the Atascadero Area Groundwater Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Basin identified as Basin No. 3-004.11 in the State of California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 (the “Subbasin”). The Subbasin is located entirely in San Luis Obispo county and is approximately 19,800 acres in size. The Subbasin extends northerly along the Salinas River from the community of Santa Margarita to the southerly limits of Paso Robles.¹ The Subbasin is comprised of flatlands ranging in elevation from approximately 700 to 1,400 feet above mean sea level that are bordered to the west by the Santa Lucia Range southern Coast Ranges. The average annual precipitation ranges from 13 to 23 inches and rainfall increases across the Subbasin from the southeast to the northwest.²

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) determined that the Rinconada Fault is a substantial barrier to the flow of percolating groundwater between Paso Robles Basin and Atascadero Subbasin in its 2016 Bulletin 118 Interim Update.³ The Atascadero Subbasin was identified as very-low priority and is not subject to SGMA at the time of the writing of this document. Figure 3-1 shows the extent of the plan area as well as the significant water bodies, communities, and highways.

The Salinas River is the primary surface water feature within the Subbasin. Significant tributaries to the Salinas River within the Subbasin include Paso Robles, Atascadero, Graves, Santa Margarita, Paloma, and Trout Creeks. Urban communities in the Subbasin are the city of Atascadero, city of Paso Robles, the community of Santa Margarita, and the community of Templeton. Highway 101 is the most significant north-south highway in the Subbasin, with Highway 58 at the southern border of the Subbasin extending east, Highway 41 at mid-basin extending east-west, and Highway 46 near the northern border of the Subbasin extending east-west. Figure 3-1 shows the extent of the plan area as well as the significant water bodies, communities, and highways.

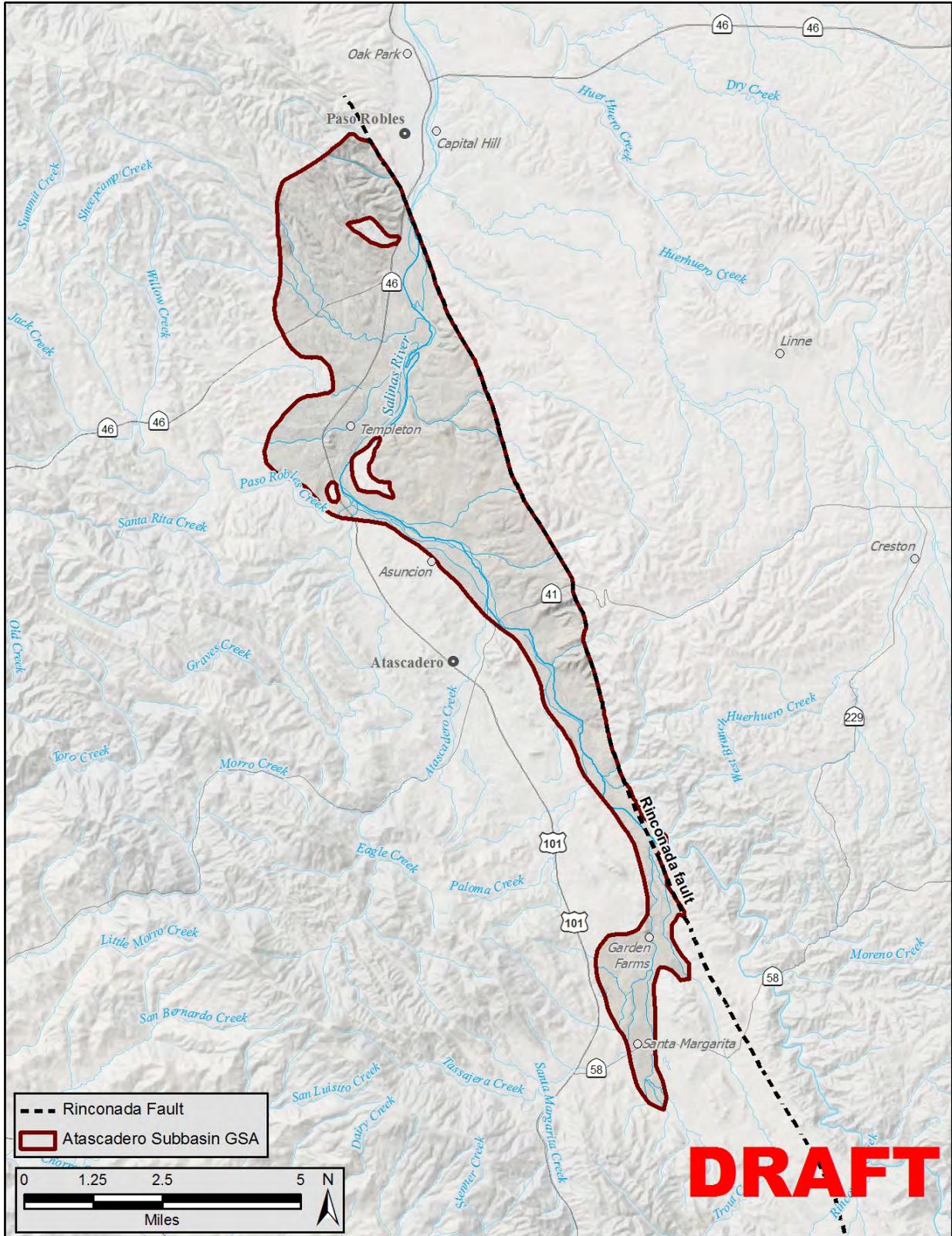
3.2 Adjudicated Areas

No part of the Subbasin is adjudicated, nor are any surrounding subbasins adjudicated. No other GSAs exist within the Subbasin. No SGMA Alternative Plans have been submitted for any part of the Subbasin, nor for any of the surrounding Subbasin. Since there are no adjudicated areas, other GSAs, or alternative plans in the Subbasin, no map is included in this GSP for these items.

¹ 2018.06.21, AMWC, comment to RMS update text.docx

² This is based on PRISM 30-yr normal 800m grid [1981-2010] that is calibrated to the precip station in Atascadero

³ 2018.06.21, AMWC, comment to RMS update text.docx



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California	 	Area Covered by GSP
Atascadero Subbasin GSA	JUNE 2019	FIGURE 3-1

3.3 Jurisdictional Areas

In addition to the GSA, there are agencies that have some degree of water management authority in the Subbasin. Each agency or organization is discussed below. A map of the jurisdictional extent of the County and Special District within the Subbasin is shown on Figure 3-2. A map showing the jurisdictional extent of city and local jurisdictions within the Subbasin is shown on Figure 3-3.

3.3.1 Federal Jurisdictions

There are no federal agencies with land holdings in the Subbasin.

3.3.2 Tribal Jurisdiction

The two prominent Native American tribes in San Luis Obispo County are the Salinan and Northern Chumash Indian tribes. These two tribes do not have any recognized tribal land in the Subbasin.

3.3.3 State Jurisdictions

The Department of State Hospitals operates the Atascadero State Hospital in the city of Atascadero and operates its own water supply system.

3.3.4 County Jurisdictions

San Luis Obispo County and the associated San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLOFCWCD) has jurisdiction over the entire Subbasin. The County owns or manages the unincorporated areas of the Subbasin; this includes a portion of the northwest and a majority of the land east of the Salinas River. It also includes the Templeton and Santa Margarita Community Parks, as well as one County services area, CSA 23 Santa Margarita.

3.3.5 City and Local Jurisdictions

The city of Paso Robles lies on the northeast side of the Subbasin and has water management authority over its incorporated area and manages a number of parks. Two community service districts exist in the Subbasin: Four mutual water companies exist in the Subbasin: Atascadero MWC (includes city of Atascadero), SMR MWC, Santa Ysabel Ranch MWC, and Walnut Hills MWC.

3.3.6 Special Districts

Special districts include: airport, cemetery, community services which includes Templeton Community Services District and Garden Farms Community Water District, fire, flood,

irrigation, metropolitan planning, open space, port/harbor, recreation/parks, regional park, sanitation, and school districts. The Subbasin includes three special district areas—Tom Jermin Senior Community Park, Eves Park, and Santa Margarita Community Park.

3.4 Land Use

Land use planning in the Subbasin is the responsibility of San Luis Obispo County, the city of Atascadero, or the City of Paso Robles. Land use information for the Subbasin was collected by DWR, and San Luis Obispo County’s Agricultural Commissioner Offices. Current land use in the Subbasin is shown on Figure 3-4 and is summarized by category in Table 3-1. All land use categories except native vegetation listed in Table 3-1 are the land use categories provide by San Luis Obispo County. The balance of the approximately 19,800 acres in the GSP Plan area is largely native vegetation and could include dry-farmed land.

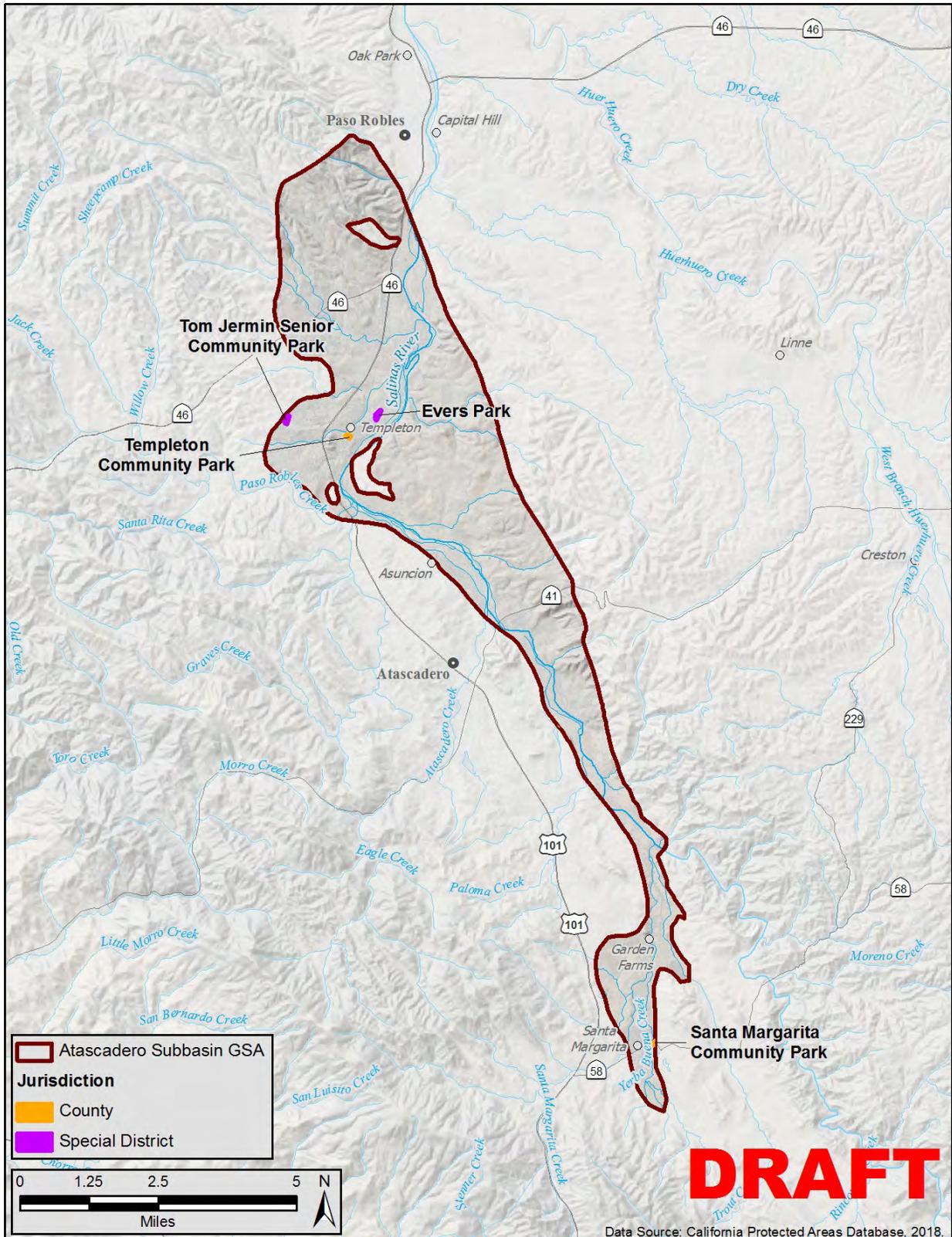
Table 3-1 Land Use Summary [*The agricultural acreage will be replaced with more recent data provided by the San Luis Obispo Agricultural Commissioner data when it is received*]



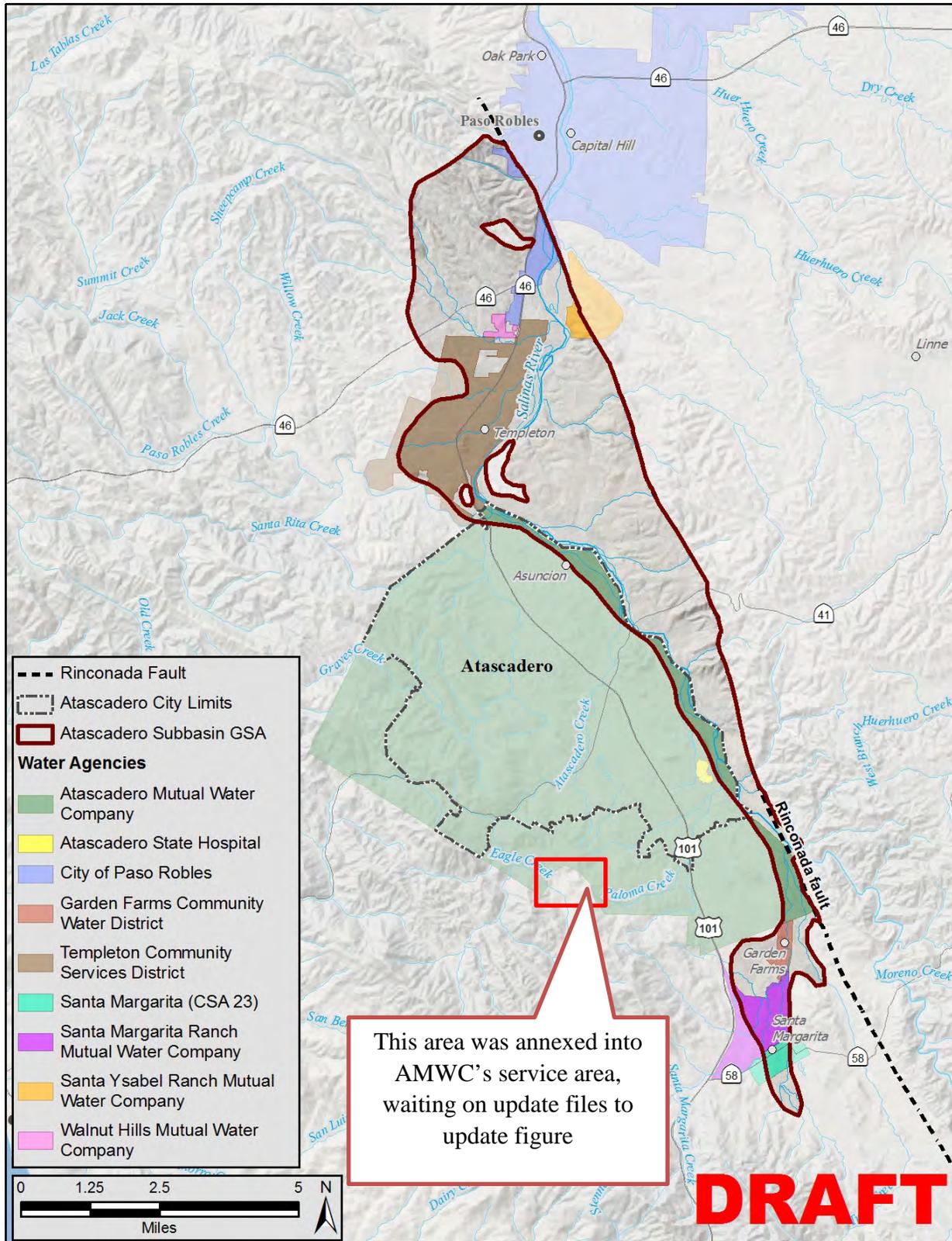
Land Use Category ⁴	Acres
Citrus and subtropical	26
Deciduous fruits and nuts	339
Grain and hay crops	39
Idle	1,938
Pasture	331
Truck nursery and berry crops	54
Vineyard	1,280
Young perennial	9
<i>Agricultural Subtotal</i>	<i>4,016</i>
Urban	2,592
<i>Urban Subtotal</i>	<i>2,592</i>
Native vegetation	13,192
<i>Native Vegetation Subtotal</i>	<i>13,192</i>
Total	19,800

Source: DWR, 2014

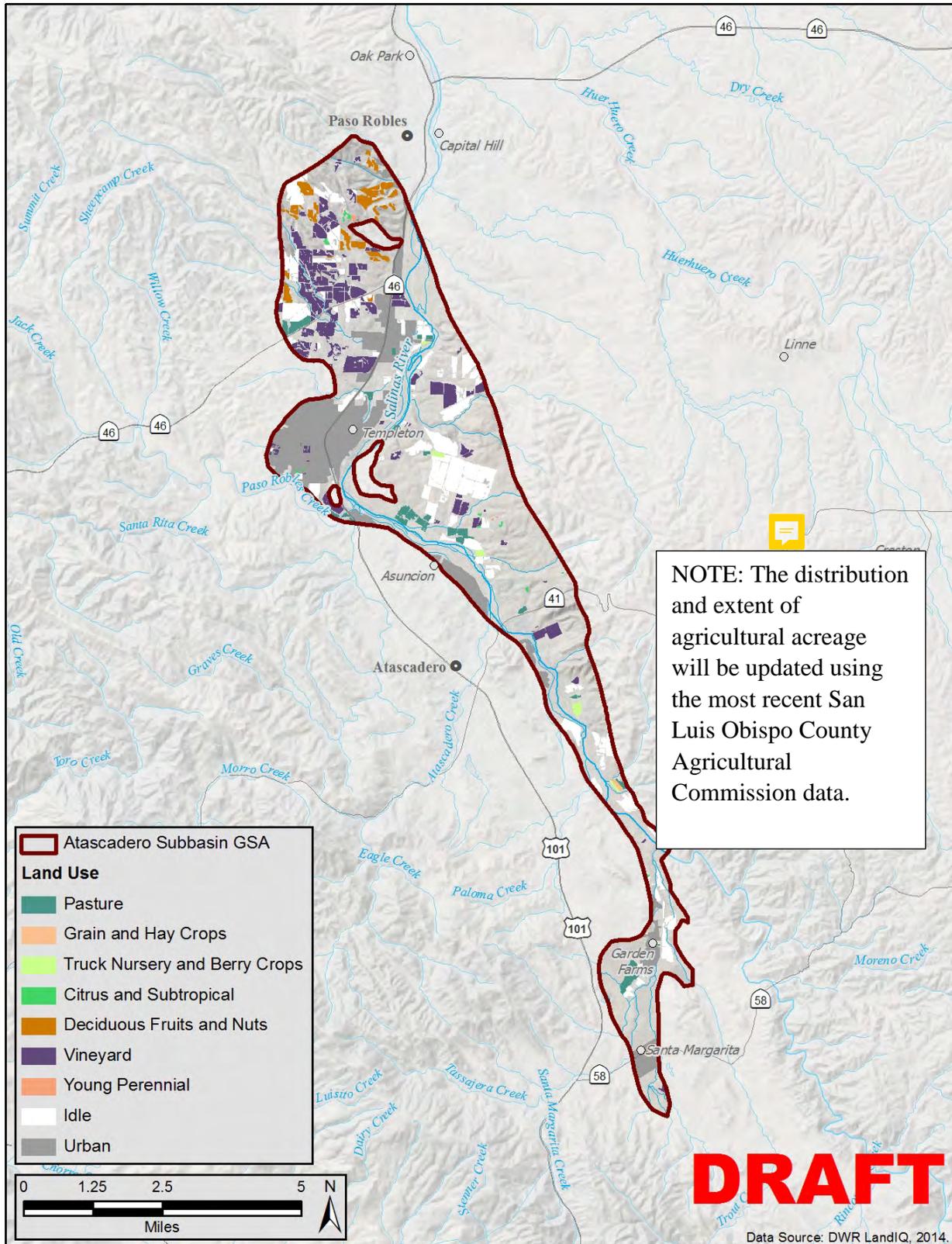
⁴ <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/California-Water-Plan/Docs/Materials/Update2018/Plenary/2017/California-Water-Plan-2017-Plenary-Land-Use-Visualization-Session-Presentation.pdf?la=en&hash=1C0D1F040C47C95B532E5DC94B5107202D06B7C6>



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California		Jurisdictional Areas	
Atascadero Subbasin GSA	GEI Consultants Water Solutions, Inc.	JUNE 2019	FIGURE 3-2



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California	 	City, CSD and Water District Jurisdictional Areas
Atascadero Subbasin GSA		JUNE 2019 FIGURE 3-3



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California		Existing Land Use Designations
Atascadero Subbasin GSA		JUNE 2019 FIGURE 3-4

3.4.1 Water Source Types

The Subbasin has three water source types: groundwater, surface water, and recycled water.

Groundwater

All water demands in the Subbasin were met with groundwater. There are approximately 1,960 water supply wells located in the Subbasin.⁵



Surface Water

The Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) regional raw water transmission facility delivers water from Lake Nacimiento to communities in San Luis Obispo County. The NWP includes 45 miles of pipeline. It is designed to deliver 15,750 acre-feet of water per year. In 2004, AMWC, Templeton Community Services District, and the city of Paso Robles entered into Delivery Entitlement Contracts with the SLOFCWCD for participation in the project. As of April 19, 2016, the NWP is fully allocated.⁶ Allocations to the four NWP participants in the Subbasin are shown in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Nacimiento Water Project Allocations

NWP Participants	Allocations (AFY)
AMWC	3,244
City of Paso Robles	6,488
Templeton CSD	406
SMR MWC	80

Source: 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report Volume I of II – Findings and Recommendations San Luis Obispo County General Plan Public Review Draft page 16⁷

Recycled Water

Historically, recycled water has not been used as a source of water in the Subbasin. The city of Paso Robles operates a wastewater treatment plant and is currently upgrading its water treatment system. There are plans to use its treated wastewater for irrigation and other non-potable uses in the Paso Robles Subbasin, but not the Atascadero Subbasin. Templeton CSD percolates treated effluent into percolation ponds then recovers the water from municipal production wells downstream. The city of Atascadero provides percolated recycled water from the city’s water recycling facility to the Chalk Mountain Golf Course through an irrigation well. The Chalk Mount Golf Course is located outside of the Subbasin. Currently, there is no land using wastewater as a water source type.

⁵ Will need to reference the databases we use to make this statement

⁶ \\sac1v-fs01\data\WR\Atascadero Mutual Water Company\1505070 Atascadero GSP\Jan 2019 GSP\6 - Background Information\SLO County Resource Summary\2018.12.10_Resource Summary Report.pdf page 15

⁷ Same link as footnote 4 page 16

There are no opportunities for desalinated water projects in the Atascadero Subbasin, nor is stormwater used as a supplemental water supply.

3.4.2 Water Use Sectors

Water demands in the subbasin are organized into the same water use sectors identified in Article 2 of the GSP emergency regulations (*DWR 2016*). These include:

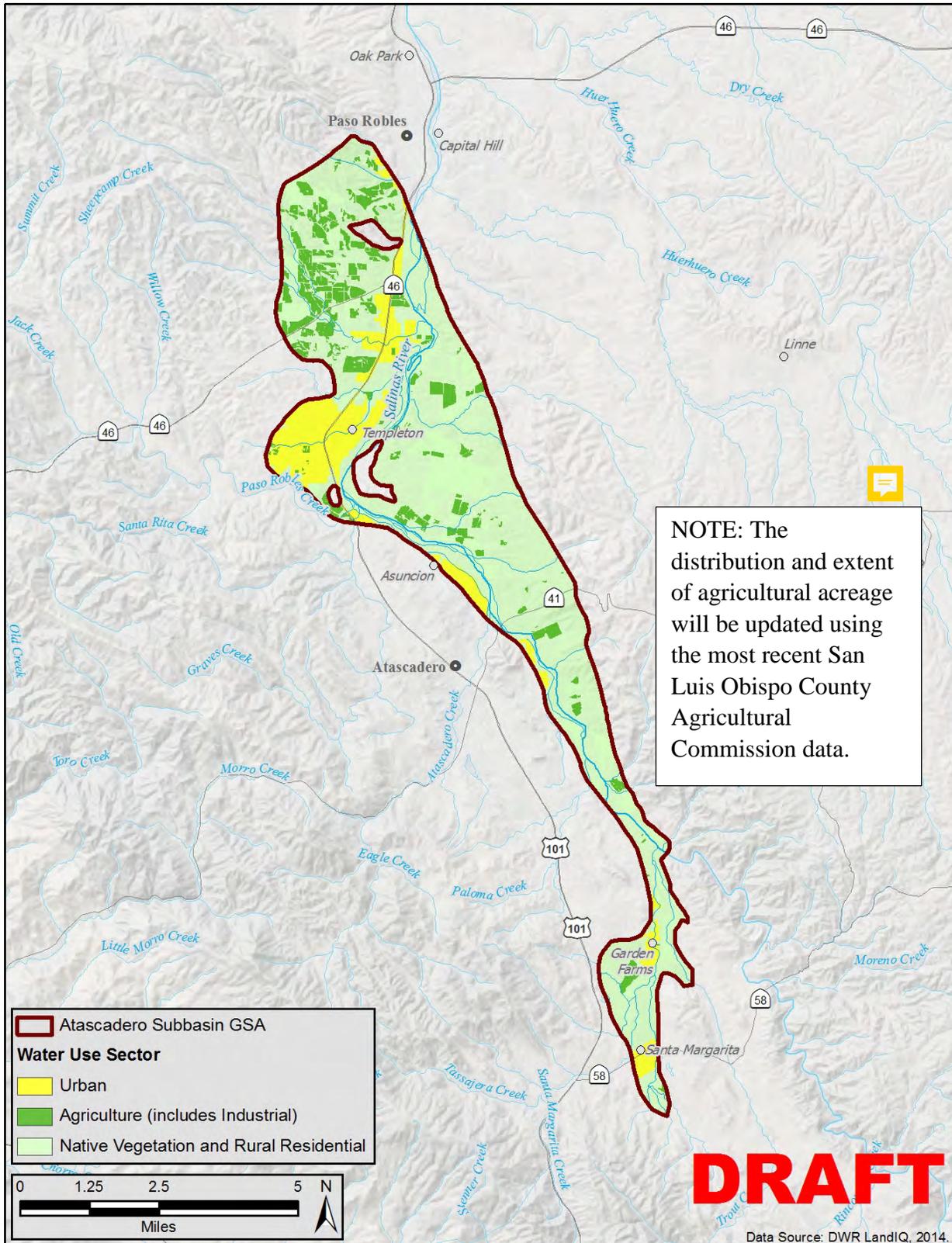
- **Urban.** Urban water use is assigned to non-agricultural water uses in the cities and census-designated places. This is the largest water use sector in the Subbasin. Domestic use outside of census-designated places (i.e. rural residential areas) are not considered urban use.
- **Rural Domestic.** This is not an identified sector in the regulation, but rural pumping is present in the Subbasin and includes domestic water use by development in rural areas. It has the second largest water demand⁸
- **Industrial.** There is limited industrial use in the Subbasin. DWR does not have any records of wells in the subbasin that are categorized for industrial use. Most industrial use is associated with agriculture and is lumped into the agricultural water use sector.
- **Agricultural.** Agriculture demand on water usage is relatively small. It accounted for approximately 8.5% of the water demand in 2006⁹.
- **Managed Wetlands.** There are no managed wetlands in the Subbasin.
- **Recharge Recovery.** The City of Paso Robles, Templeton SCD, and Atascadero Mutual Water Company recharge water from the NWP in recharge basins for recovery with wells within the Subbasin.
- **Native Vegetation.** This is the largest land area in the Subbasin but does not have an applied water demand.

 Figure 3-6 shows the distribution of the water use sectors in the Subbasin. Native vegetation and rural residential have been grouped together because rural residential is not an identified water use sector in the emergency regulations.

⁸ .same reference as 7 

⁹ Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan March 2011 page 35

<https://prcity.com/DocumentCenter/View/14828/Groundwater-Basin-Management-Plan-PDF>



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California	 	Water Use Sectors
Atascadero Subbasin GSA	JULY 2019	FIGURE 3-5

3.5 Density of Wells

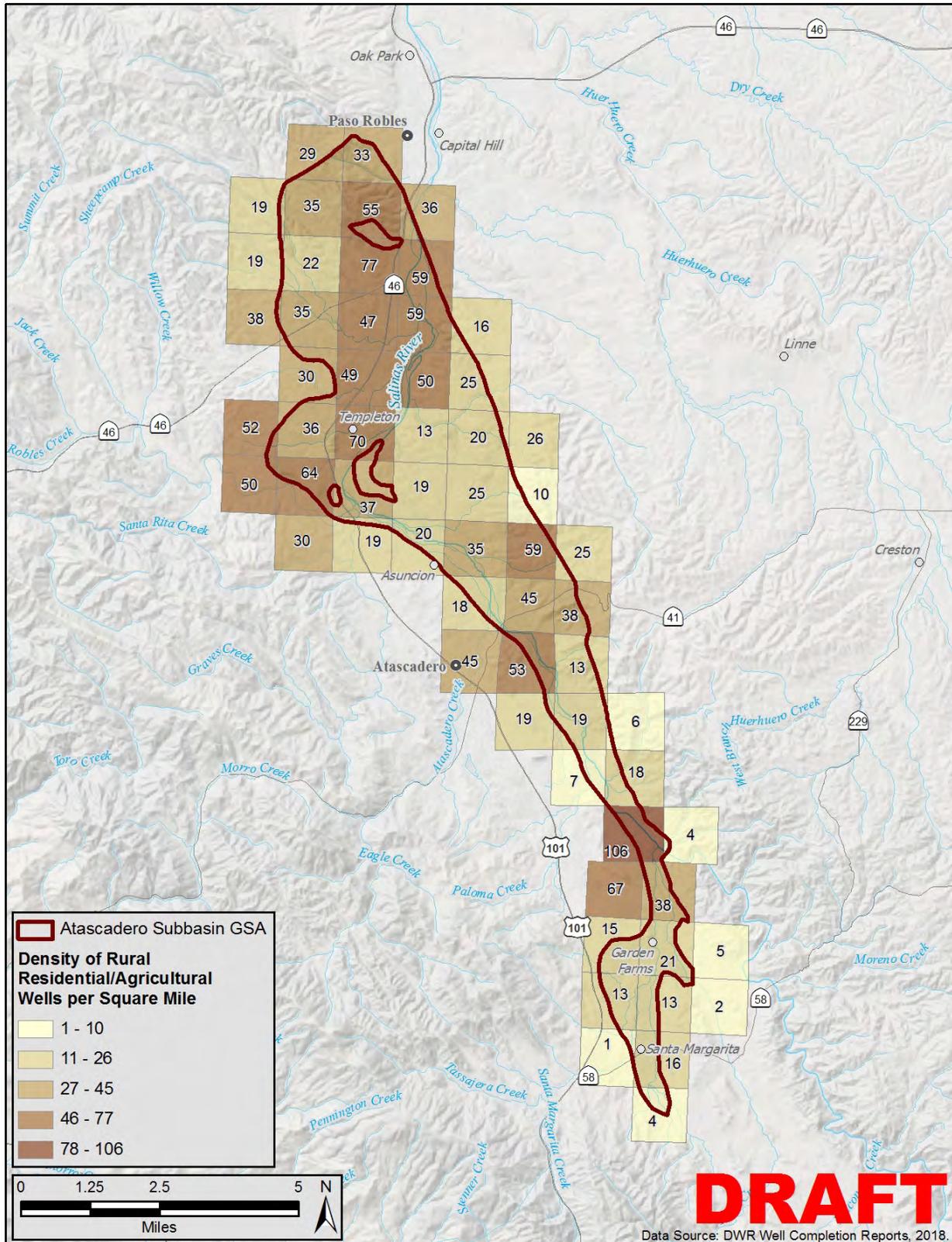
Well types, well depth data, and well distribution data were reviewed from DWR’s well completion report map application (map application) (DWR, 2018), the State Public Water System, and Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA). Under the regulation requirement §354.8 (5) it is requested that the general distribution of agricultural, industrial, and domestic water supply well data be “provided by the department as specified in Section 353.2, or the best available information.” The data sources that were reviewed do not follow the same well designations as specified in the regulation accurately because of the rural nature of the Subbasin. When attempting to filter the map application by the above well types, only 127 wells were identified. However, when you remove the filters, approximately 1,900 wells were identified. Therefore, it was determined that only two categories of wells will be presented in this GSP. Rural residential and agricultural wells are grouped together into one category. The other is public wells. Table 3-3 shows the total number of wells for the two categories.

Table 3-3 Well Distribution

Type of Well	Total Wells
Rural Residential and Agricultural	1899
Public	57
Total	1956



Figure 3-6, and Figure 3-7 show the density of wells in the Subbasin within the two categories. These maps should be considered representative of well distributions but are not definitive.



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 San Luis Obispo County, California

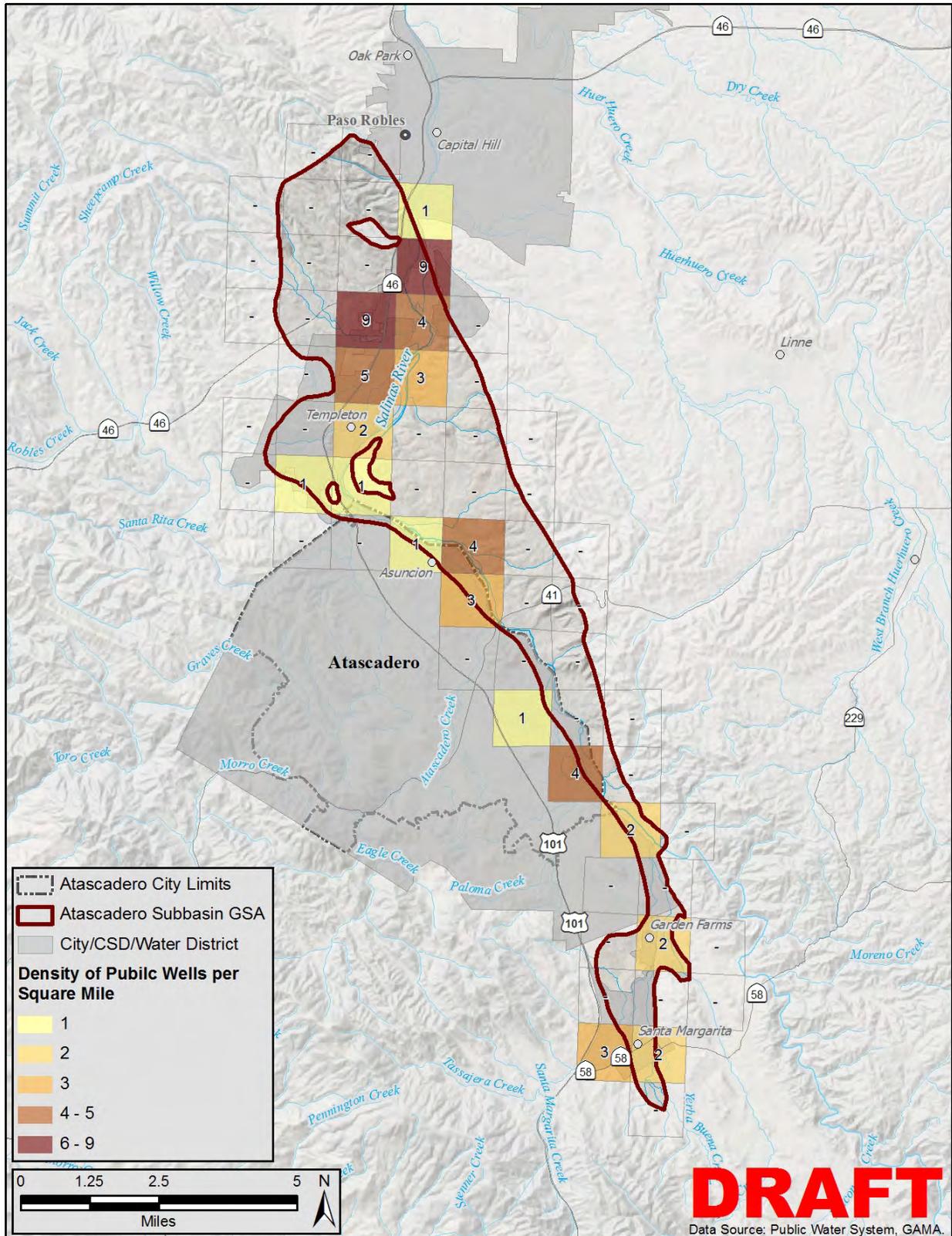
Atascadero Subbasin GSA



Density of Rural Residential
 and Agricultural Wells per Square Mile

JULY 2019

FIGURE 3-6



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 San Luis Obispo County, California

Atascadero Subbasin GSA



Density of Public Wells per Square Mile

JULY 2019

FIGURE 3-7

3.6 Existing Monitoring and Management Programs

3.6.1 Groundwater Monitoring

3.6.1.1 Groundwater Level Monitoring

The SLOFCWCD has been monitoring groundwater levels county-wide on a semi-annual basis for more than 50 years to support general planning and for engineering purposes. Groundwater level measurements are taken once in the spring and once in the fall. The monitoring takes place from a voluntary network of wells. The voluntary monitoring network has changed over time as access to wells has been lost or new wells have been added to the network.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has four stations within the Subbasin that have historically monitored groundwater levels. These stations are currently inactive, and none have readings from within the past five years. The frequency for monitoring is given as “periodic” so the frequency is unknown at this time.

Routine monitoring of groundwater levels is conducted by the County in the Subbasin. Figure 3-8 shows the locations of monitoring wells in the USGS monitoring system and other wells identified in the GAMA program (identified as public well in groundwater monitoring network on Figure 3-8) The monitoring network also includes other wells in the Plan Area designated as private that are not shown on this map. Additional evaluation of the current monitoring program will be conducted for the GSP to establish a representative monitoring network of public and private wells that will be used during plan implementation to track groundwater elevations and ensure that minimum thresholds have not been exceeded.

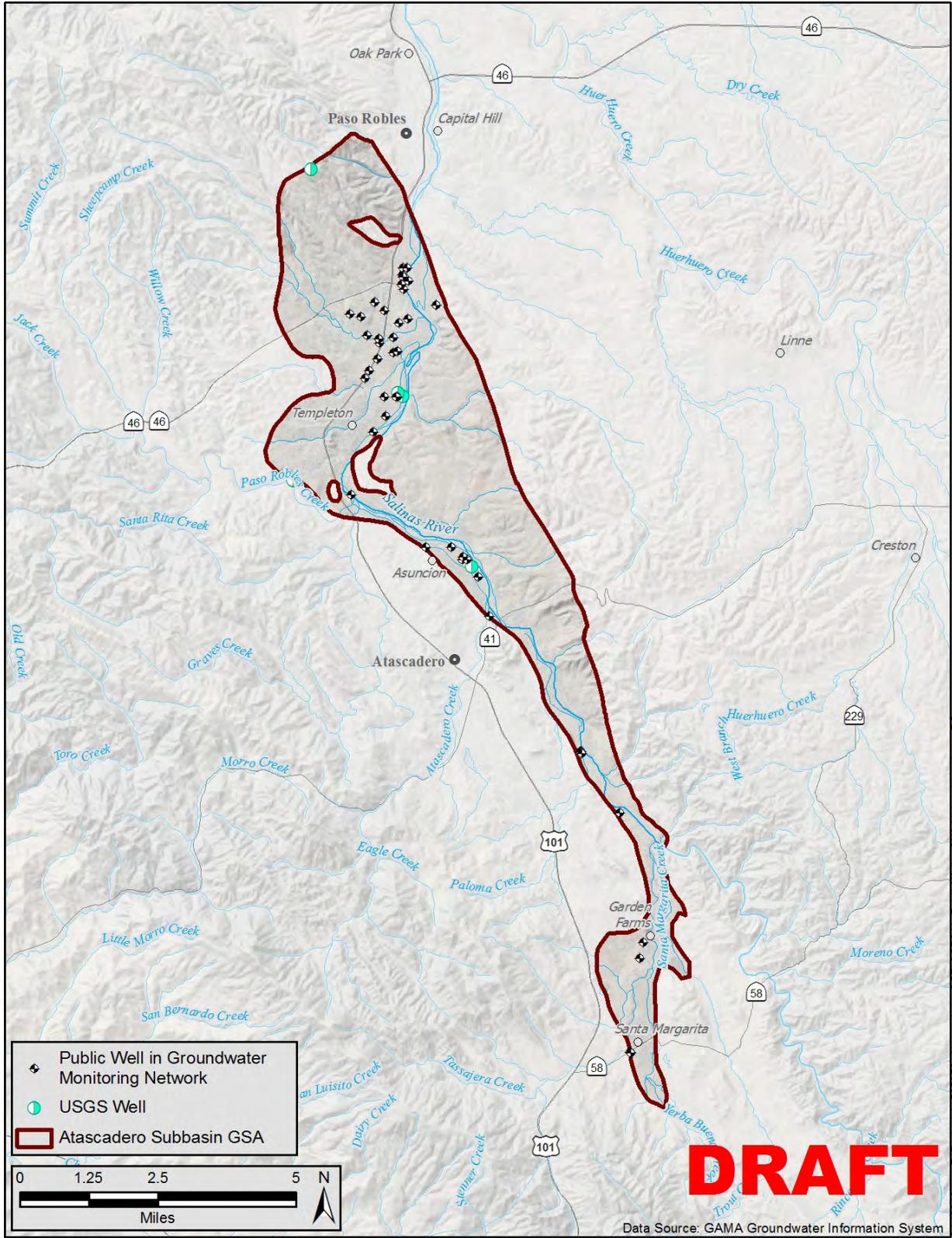
3.6.1.2 Groundwater Quality Monitoring

Groundwater quality is monitored/reported under several different programs and by different agencies including:

- Municipal and community water purveyors must collect water quality samples on a routine basis for compliance monitoring and reporting to the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW).
- The USGS collects water quality data on a routine basis under the GAMA program. These data are stored in the State’s GAMA/Geotracker system.
- The SWRCB’s 2009 Recycled Water Policy required the development of Salt Nutrient Management Plans for groundwater basins in California. This plan was developed in 2015 for the Atascadero Subbasin (RMC, 2015).

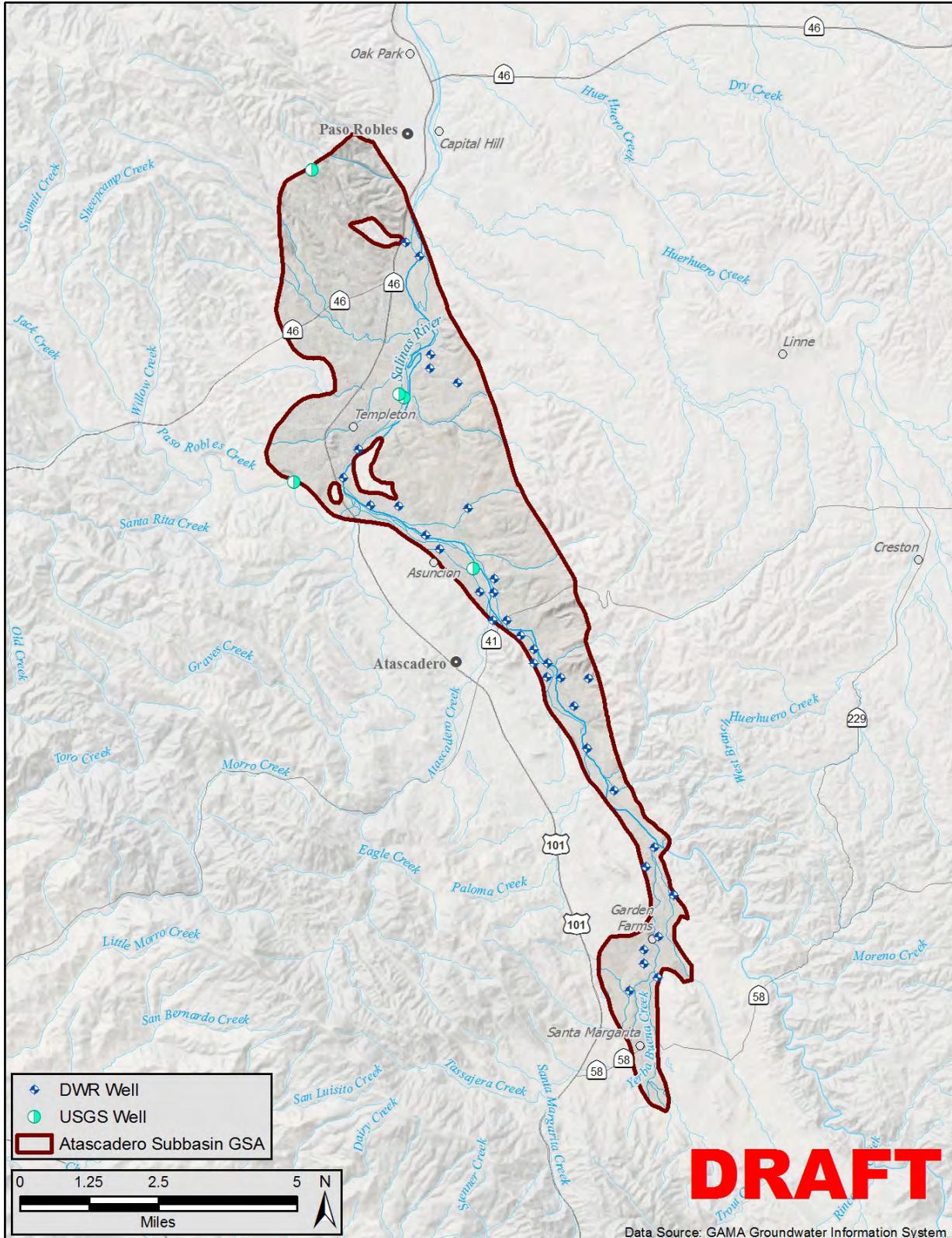
- There are multiple sites that are monitoring groundwater quality as part of investigation or compliance monitoring programs through the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- California Water Data Library contains groundwater level and water quality monitoring stations. The data available from this resource has been used above.
- Figure 3-9 shows the location of wells in the State's GAMA Geotracker database and the USGS database.

The USGS monitored groundwater quality at four stations in the Subbasin. These stations are currently inactive, and none have readings from within the past five years. The frequency for monitoring is given as "periodic" so the frequency is unknown at this time.



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California		Public Wells in the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network
Atascadero Subbasin GSA		JULY 2019 FIGURE 3-8

Draft Atascadero Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 Atascadero Groundwater Subbasin
 July 2019



Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan San Luis Obispo County, California	 	Groundwater Quality Monitoring Well Locations
Atascadero Subbasin GSA	JULY 2019	FIGURE 3-9

3.6.1.3 Surface Water Monitoring

Stream gages have historically been maintained and monitored by the USGS and the SLOFCWCD. Data are stored electronically in National Water Information System (NWIS) files and are retrievable from the USGS Water Resources Internet site.

The SLOFCWCD also stores electronic stream gauge data. There are various SLOFCWCD stream gauges surrounding the Subbasin, but no SLOFCWCD stream gages lie within the Subbasin. Of the USGS stream gages with historical data, none of the gages are currently active in the Subbasin. The USGS 11147500 Salinas R A Paso Robles CA stream USGS stream gage is located outside of the northeastern area of the Subbasin, as shown on Figure 3-12, and gage specifics are present in Table 3-5.

Table 3-4 Stream Gage

Station Name	Agency	Data Recorded	Data Interval	Period of Record
1147500 Salinas R A Paso Robles CA	USGS	Gage Height	15 minutes	2007-2019

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) participates in the State Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP).¹⁰ SWAMP is tasked with assessing water quality in all of California’s surface waters. The California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN)¹¹ integrates data from SWAMP. There are four stations in the Subbasin (309-SALIN-44, 309SAT, 309-SMARG-41, 309-YERBA-41) and 8 in the vicinity of the Subbasin (309-TROUT-41, 309-SALIN-45, 309ATS, 309-ATASC-41, 309-GRAVE-41, 309-PASOR-41, 309-SALIN-47, and 309PSO).

3.6.1.4 Climate Monitoring

Climate monitoring in the Subbasin includes stations that collect data related to temperature, evapotranspiration, relative humidity, atmospheric pressure, precipitation, etc. Two stations monitored by San Luis Obispo County Public Works collect precipitation data in the Subbasin, Templeton #762 and Atascadero #711.¹² Santa Margarita #723 is just outside of the Subbasin. The locations of these stations are shown on Figure 3-12.

The National Climatic Data Center¹³ has three stations within the Subbasin that collect precipitation data. These stations do not have extensive historic data. The station with the most data, US1CASL0014, began recording data in June 2011. The Paso Robles Climate Station, USC00046730, has a large historical data range.

¹⁰ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/monitoring/regional_monitoring_programs/region_3.html

¹¹ <https://ceden.waterboards.ca.gov/AdvancedQueryTool>

¹² <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forms-Documents/Water-Resources/Monthly-Precipitation-Reports/Templeton-Precipitation-Data-Site-762.aspx>
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/078c9cb0-c326-4bf4-a8b6-f458d71d3639/Atascadero-Precipitation-Data-Site-711.aspx>
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Forms-Documents/Water-Resources/Monthly-Precipitation-Reports/Santa-Margarita-Precipitation-Data-Site-723.aspx>

¹³ <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/findstation>

The Templeton precipitation station measures daily temperatures in addition to rainfall. The California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) station number 163 in Atascadero measures a number of climatic factors that allow a calculation of daily reference evapotranspiration for the area. AMWC has a weather station located in Atascadero. It has been collecting precipitation data since 1916. All climate monitoring stations are identified in Table 3-6.

The long-term precipitation measurements at this station are shown in Table 3-7. Average annual precipitation at this station varies from approximately 8 to 30 inches. Figure 3-11 displays the long-term precipitation record at the AMWC weather station. Table 3-8 provides a summary of average monthly rainfall, temperature, and reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) for the Subbasin.

Table 3-5 Climate Monitoring Stations

Station Name	Agency	Data Recorded	Data Interval	Period of Record
Templeton #762	SLO County	Precipitation	Daily	2010-2018
Atascadero # 711	SLO County	Precipitation	Daily	1999-2018
Santa Margarita #722	SLO County	Precipitation	Daily	2005-2018
TEMPLETON 0.4 E, CA US (US1CASL0011)	NCDC	Precipitation		2010-2013
TEMPLETON 0.4 ENE, CA US (US1CASL0025)	NCDC	Precipitation	Daily	2017-2019
PASO ROBLES, CA US (USC00046730)	NCDC	Precipitation, Air Temperature	Daily	1894 to 2019
163 Atascadero	CIMIS	ET _o , Precipitation, Air Temperature, Solar Radiation, Relative Humidity, Dew Point, Wind Speed, Soil Temperature	Daily	2000-2018
AMWC Weather Station	AMWC	Precipitation	Daily	1916-2018

* National Climatic Data Center, now NCEI – National Centers for Environmental Information

**Table 3-6 Precipitation Measurements at the AMWC Weather Station
 from 2008 to 2018**

Water Year	Precipitation at Name Station ID: AMWC Weather Station (inches)	Index
2008	15.56	TBD
2009	10.99	
2010	26.51	
2011	25.91	
2012	11.74	
2013	8.41	
2014	9.23	
2015	11.91	
2016	14.16	
2017	29.94	
2018	12.03	
Minimum	8.41	
Maximum	29.94	
Average	16.04	

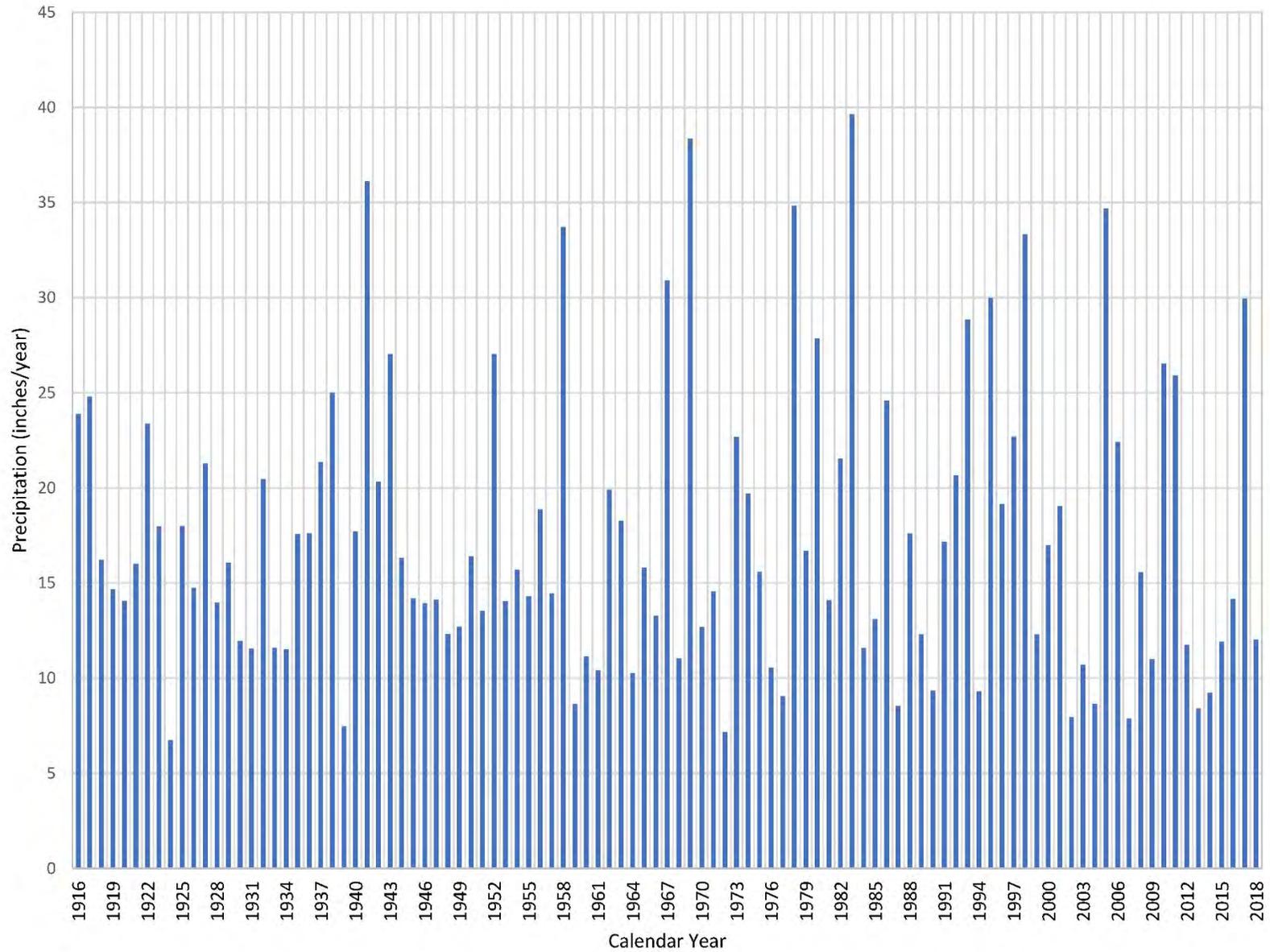


Figure 3-11: Annual Precipitation at the AMWC Weather Station

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Table 3-7 Average Monthly Climate Summary

Month	Average Rainfall (inches) ^a	Average ET _o (inches) ^b	Average Daily Temperature (F°) ^b
January	4.15	1.72	46
February	3.74	2.10	48
March	3.13	3.64	52
April	1.01	4.74	54
May	0.26	5.99	60
June	0.03	6.55	66
July	0.04	6.87	69
August	0.05	6.31	68
September	0.25	4.99	65
October	0.89	3.57	58
November	1.50	1.95	51
December	2.84	1.56	45
Monthly Average	1.49	4.17	-
Average Calendar Year ^c	18	50.04	57

Notes:

^a Average of monthly precipitation at AMWC Weather Station 1968 to 2018.

^b ET_o = Average of monthly evapotranspiration at CIMIS163 Atascadero Station for 2001 to 2018

^c Average Calendar Year is not the sum of monthly average, but rather a historical annual average over the period of record.

3.6.2 Existing Management Plans

There are numerous groundwater and water management plans that cover the Subbasin. These plans are described in the following subsections, along with brief descriptions of how they relate to the management of current water supply, projected water supplies, and land use.

3.6.2.1 Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan (2011)

The city of Paso Robles and its partnering agencies developed a Groundwater Basin Management Plan (GMP) (GEI, 2011¹⁴) that is compliant with AB3030 and SB1938 legislation. The plan covered both the Atascadero and Paso Robles Subbasins but excluded the area between the San Juan and San Andreas Faults. Appendix B contains a copy of the plan.

A subset of the 73 groundwater management activities identified in the GMP could be implemented in the Subbasin. The groundwater management activities were grouped into various categories including stakeholder involvement, monitoring and data collection, resource protection, sustainability, and water management. The plan included an implementation schedule and a requirement for periodic updates.

¹⁴ GEI Consultants Inc., Fugro West Inc., CHG, March 2011. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan.

3.6.2.2 San Luis Obispo County Master Water Report (2012)

The County's Master Water Report (MWR) (Carollo, 2012) [*add reference from Paso Robles page 35*] is a compilation of the current and future water resource management activities being undertaken by various entities within the County and is organized by Water Planning Areas (WPA). The MWR explores how these activities interrelate, analyzes current and future supplies and demands, identifies future water management strategies and ways to optimize existing strategies, and documents the role of the MWR in supporting other water resource planning efforts. The MWR evaluates and compares the available water supplies to the water demands for the different water planning areas. This was accomplished by reviewing or developing the following:

- Current water supplies and demands based on available information
- Forecast water demands and water supplies available in the future under current land use policies and designations
- Criteria under which there is a shortfall when looking at supplies versus demands
- Criteria for analyzing potential water resource management strategies, projects, programs, or policies
- Potential water resource management strategies, projects, programs, or policies to resolve potential supply deficiencies

3.6.2.3 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (2014)

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was initially developed and adopted by the SLOFCWCD in 2005 and has been updated several times. The 2014 IRWMP (San Luis Obispo County, 2014) included goals and objectives that provide the basis for decision-making and are used to evaluate project benefits. The goals and objectives reflect input from interested stakeholders on the region's major water resources issues.

The SLOFCWCD, in cooperation with the SLOFCWCD's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), prepared the IRWMP to align the County's water resources management planning efforts with the State's planning efforts. The IRWMP is used to support the Region's water resource management planning and submittal of grant applications to fund these efforts. The IRWMP integrated 19 different water management strategies that have or will have a role in protecting the region's water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystems, groundwater, and flood management objectives. The integration of these strategies resulted in a list of action items (projects, programs, and studies) needed to implement the IRWMP. The IRWMP is currently being updated with a DWR submittal. The agenda for the April 3, 2019 San Luis Obispo County Region IRWM Regional Water Management Group meeting states a meeting to approve the Final IRWM Plan will take place on "June, 2019¹⁵".

15

<https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Frequent%20Downloads/Integrated%20Regional%20Water%20Management%20Plan/Meetings/pdf/2019-04-03%20RWMG%20Agenda%20Packet.pdf>

3.6.2.4 Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (2015)

The city of Atascadero, along with the city of Paso Robles, San Miguel CSD, Templeton CSD, Heritage Ranch CSD, San Luis Obispo County, and Camp Roberts, prepared a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Paso Robles Subbasin in accordance with State's 2009 Recycled Water Policy (RMC, 2015). At the time of the SNMP the Atascadero Subbasin was included in the Paso Robles Subbasin.

3.6.2.5 Salinas and Carmel Rivers Basin Study (2019)

The purpose of the Salinas and Carmel Rivers Basin Study (Basin Study) was to inform and guide future courses of action in response to existing and potential future imbalances between water supplies and demands in the Salinas and Carmel River Basins (CRB). This Basin Study is a collaborative effort between four local partner agencies and is supported by two Federal agencies. It will identify existing water supplies and demands, model future water supplies and demands, accounting for uncertainties in future climate conditions, population growth, and other socioeconomic trends.¹⁶

3.6.2.6 AMWC 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (2016)

AMWC is a public urban water supplier serving more than 31,000 customers. The AMWC 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) (MKN & Associates, 2016) was developed to meet the requirements of the California UWMP Act from 2010 as well as the updates from 2015. The UWMP includes a system description, system water use, Water Conservation Act (SB X7-7) baselines and targets, current and future system water supplies, a water supply reliability assessment, water shortage contingency planning, and demand management measures.

The system water supplies include imported water from the Nacimiento Water Project and groundwater from two distinct yet interrelated groundwater sources: the Salinas River Underflow and the Atascadero Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. AMWC does not have a self-supplied surface water supply source, does not currently or intend to supplement water supply demands with stormwater, nor do they provide recycled water to customers within the service area. The city of Atascadero does, however, provide recycled water from the city's water reclamation facility to the Chalk Mountain Golf Course through an irrigation well. There are no opportunities for desalinated water projects in the service area, and AMWC does not anticipate any planned or potential future water exchanges or transfers. AMWC has an emergency water supply agreement with San Luis Obispo County to provide water from the AMWC system to County Service Area 23 and Garden Farms Community Water District during emergency water shortage conditions.

¹⁶ <http://www.mpwmd.net/asd/board/committees/watersupply/2017/20170208/02/Item-2-Exh-B.pdf>

3.6.2.7 City of Paso Robles Urban Water Management Plan (2016)

The Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) (Todd Groundwater, 2016) describes the Paso Robles' current and future water demands, identifies current water supply sources, and assesses supply and future water demands, identifies current water supply sources, and assesses supply reliability for the city. The UWMP describes the city's reliance on groundwater and its support for efforts to avoid overdraft by developing additional sources. The UWMP provides a forecast of future growth, water demand, and water sources for the city through 2035. These sources include water conservation, surface water from Lake Nacimiento, and the use of recycled water for irrigation. The UWMP identifies beneficial impacts to groundwater quality through the use of these sources.

3.6.3 Existing Groundwater Regulatory Programs

3.6.3.1 Salinas River Live Stream Requirements (1972)

In 1972, the SWRCB issued a decision regarding the storage of water at Salinas Reservoir in order to protect vested downstream rights. The decision presumed that downstream rights would be met if a visible surface flow (i.e., a "live" stream) existed in the Salinas River between the Salinas Reservoir and the confluence with the Nacimiento River. If there was no live stream, then total daily inflow to the Salinas Reservoir was to be released to pass downstream.

The live Stream Agreement was first implemented in 1972 using flow at the stream gauge on the Salinas River near the city of Paso Robles as an indicator of "live" stream conditions. In 1976, a set of six observation points was established to determine "visible surface flow." A seventh observation point, located immediately upstream of the Graves Creek confluence, was added in 1978.

3.6.3.2 Groundwater Export Ordinance (2015)

In 2015, San Luis Obispo County passed an Exportation of Groundwater ordinance that requires a permit for the export of groundwater out of a groundwater basin or out of the County. An export permit is only approved if the Department of Public Works Director or his/her designee finds that moving the water would not have any adverse impacts to groundwater resources, such as causing aquifer levels to drop, disrupting the flow of neighboring wells, or resulting in seawater intrusion. Export permits are only valid for one year.

3.6.3.3 Well Ordinances, County and City

To be determined

3.6.3.4 Countywide Water Conservation Program Resolution 2015-288 (2015)

The ordinance also identified areas of severe decline in groundwater elevation and properties overlying these areas would be further restricted from planting new or expanding irrigated agriculture except for those converting irrigated agriculture on the same property into a different

crop type. This resolution applies to the Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area which is part of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, the Los Osos Groundwater Basin, and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Therefore, is not applicable to the Atascadero Subbasin.

3.6.3.5 Agricultural Order R3-2017-002 (2017)

In 2017 the CCRWQCB issued Agricultural Order No. R3-2017-0002, a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands. The permit requires that growers implement practices to reduce nitrate leaching into groundwater and improve surface receiving water quality. Specific requirements for individual growers are structured into three tiers based on the relative risk their operations pose to water quality.

Growers must enroll, pay fees, and meet various monitoring and reporting requirements according to the tier to which they are assigned. All growers are required to implement groundwater monitoring, either individually or as part of a cooperative regional monitoring program. Growers electing to implement individual monitoring (i.e., not participating in the regional monitoring program implanted by the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition [CCGC]) are required to test all on-farm domestic wells and the primary irrigation supply wells for nitrate or nitrate plus nitrite, and general minerals (including, but not limited to, TDS, sodium, chloride, and sulfate).

3.6.3.6 Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basins (2017)

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) was most recently updated in September 2017 by the SWQCB. The objective of the Basin Plan is to outline how the quality of the surface water and groundwater in the Central Coast Region should be managed to provide the highest water quality reasonably possible.

The Basin Plan lists beneficial users, describes the water quality that must be maintained to allow those uses, provides an implementation plan, details SWRCB and CCRWQCB plans and policies to protect water quality, and a statewide surveillance and monitoring program as well as regional surveillance and monitoring programs.

Present and potential future beneficial uses for inland waters in the Basin are: surface water and groundwater as municipal supply (water for community, military or individual water supplies); agricultural; groundwater recharge; recreational water contact and non-contact; sport fishing; warm fresh water habitat; wildlife habitat; rare threatened or endangered species; and spawning, reproduction, and/or early development of fish.

Water Quality Objectives for both groundwater (drinking water and irrigation) and surface water are provided in the Basin Plan.

3.6.3.7 California DWR Well Standards (1969)

Under the California Water Code Sections 13700 to 13806, DWR has the responsibility for developing well standards. DWR maintains these standards to protect groundwater quality.

California Well Standards, published as DWR Bulletin 74, represent minimum standards for well construction, alteration, and destruction to protect groundwater. Cities, counties, and water agencies in California have regulatory authority over wells and can adopt local well ordinances that meet or exceed the statewide Well Standards. When a well is constructed, modified or destroyed a well completion report is required to be submitted to DWR.

3.6.3.8 Requirements for New Wells (2017)

Senate Bill 252 effective on January 1, 2018. SB 252 requires well permit applicants in critically overdrafted basins to include information about the proposed well, such as location, depth, and pumping capacity. The bill also requires the permitting agency to make the information easily accessible to the public and the GSA. As of 2019, these requirements are under review by DWR. This bill is not applicable because the Atascadero Subbasin is not a critically overdrafted, basin.

3.6.3.9 Title 22 Drinking Water Program (2018)

The 2018 SWRCB DDW regulates public water systems in the State to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water to the public. A public water system is defined as a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Private domestic wells, wells associated with drinking water systems with less than 15 residential service connections, and industrial and irrigation wells are not regulated by the DDW.

The SWRCB DDW enforces the monitoring requirements established in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) for public water system wells, and all the data collected must be reported to the DDW. Title 22 also designates the regulatory limits (e.g., maximum contaminant levels [MCLs]) for various waterborne contaminants, including volatile organic compounds, non-volatile synthetic organic compounds, inorganic chemicals, radionuclides, disinfection byproducts, general physical constituents, and other parameters.

3.6.3.10 Incorporation Into GSP

Information in these various plans has been incorporated into this GSP and used during the preparation of Sustainability Goals, when setting Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives, and was considered during development of Projects and Management Actions.

3.6.3.11 Limits to Operational Flexibility

Some of the existing management plans and ordinances will limit operational flexibility. These limits to operational flexibility have already been incorporated into the sustainability projects and programs included in this GSP. Examples of limits on operational flexibility include:

- The Groundwater Export Ordinance prevents export of water out of the Subbasin. This is likely not a significant limitation because exporting water out of the Subbasin hinders sustainability.

- The San Luis Obispo County IRWMP and the Title 22 Drinking Water Program restrict the quality of water that can be recharged into the Subbasin.

3.7 Conjunctive Use Programs

The city of Paso Robles, Templeton CSD, and Atascadero Mutual Water Company conduct recharge recovery programs using water from the Nacimiento Water Project within the Subbasin.

3.8 Land Use Plans

San Luis Obispo County, the city of Atascadero, and the city of Paso Robles have land use authority. The GSA does not have land use authority. However, SGMA does require the GSA to consider land use documents by the overlying governing agencies. Land use is an important factor in water management as described below. The following sections provide a general description of these land use plans and how implementation may affect groundwater supply.

3.8.1 *City of Atascadero General Plan (2016)*

The 2016 city of Atascadero's General Plan bridges the gap between community values, visions and objectives, and physical decisions such as subdivision, land development, and public works. The land use element designates the general distribution and intensity of land uses, including the location and type of housing, businesses, industry, open space, and education, public buildings, and parks.

The General Plan assumes that an annual population growth rate averaging 1.25 percent will be sustained during the 20-year period between 2000 and 2020. The projected potential development, Table II-3 in the General Plan, established the land use designations of the General Plan and lists maximum potential development for each designation, Table 3-9 below.

The Atascadero General Plan 2025 states "The city analyzed the capacity of existing water resources and determined that given the existing water supply and that which will result from the Nacimiento Water Project, the existing water supply is not a constraint to growth in the city and is available for all vacant zones with the city to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation."

Table 3-8 General Plan Land Use – Projected Potential Development

Table II-3 General Plan Land Use – Projected Potential Development

Land Use Designation	Maximum Density	Average FAR	Minimum Lot Size	Acres (ac)	Projected Dwelling Units (du)	Projected Population 2.65 people/unit (pp)
RR / RE / SE	0.1 - 0.4 unit/acre gross**		2.5 -10 ac	9,340.4 ac	3,634 du	9630 pp
SFR-Z	1.0 unit/acre gross**		1.5 - 2.5 ac	655.2 ac	652 du	1728pp
SFR-Y	2.0 units/acre gross		1.0 ac	1,579.5 ac	2,831du	7503pp
SFR-X	4.0 units/acre net*		0.5 ac	472.7 ac	1,380 du	3658 pp
MDR	10 units/acre net		0.5 ac	217.1 ac	1,116 du	2958 pp
HDR	24 units/acre net (minimum 20 units/acre net)		0.5 ac	303.0 ac	3,801du	10,070 pp
GC	20 units/acre net	0.3 FAR		292.1 ac	194 du	514 pp
SC		0.4 FAR		41.8 ac		
D	20 units/acre net	3.0 FAR		62.3 ac	55 du	146 pp
MU	20 units/acre net	0.3 FAR		66.6 ac	208 du	551 pp
CPK		0.4 FAR		82.9 ac		
CREC	10 units/acre net	0.1 FAR		6.7 ac		
IND		0.4 FAR		65.2 ac		
AG	0.1 - 0.4 units/acre gross**		2.5 - 10 ac	43.9 ac		
REC				501.7 ac		
PUB		0.4 FAR		1,174.3 ac		
OS				277.4 ac		
Total				15,182.6 ac	13,871 du	36,758 pp



- “Net” shall mean minimum lot size exclusive of private or publicly owned abutting road rights-of-way while “Gross” shall include abutting road right-of-way to center line.
 FAR (Floor Area Ratio): The FAR expresses the percentage of a site area that could be covered by a building. The FAR is not considered an absolute cap under this General Plan but is used as an overall land use designation average to calculate traffic and job generation related to the uses. Actually site utilization restrictions are determined by the zoning ordinance’s setback, landscaping, parking and height standards.
 Downtown FAR is assumed with an average of 0.4 with a max of 3.0.
 - * The maximum density sets a limit to the number of units that may be developed in each land use designation. The General Plan also sets minimum lots size areas that are allowed through the subdivision process consistent with the “Elbow Room” principle. The minimum lot sizes are more restrictive than the maximum densities in order to reflect historic small lot development densities and to allow for new planned development projects that incorporate smaller lot sizes with innovative design concepts.
- ** Density is adjusted by performance standards in this land use designation. The maximum density may be lower based on the application of performance standards.

3.8.2 City of Paso Robles General Plan (2011)

The 2011 Paso Robles’ General Plan is the fundamental land use policy document of the city of Paso Robles. The city’s General Plan was developed to address several areas within the city’s Planning Area, which includes areas defined as City Limits, the Sphere of Influence, and the Planning Impact Area. The city’s General Plan defines the framework by which the city’s physical and economic resources are to be managed and used in the future. This General Plan has a planning horizon of 2025.

Current city policy recommends that residential growth be managed toward a target population of 44,000 in 2025. Most growth is anticipated to occur within the existing city limits where services and public facilities are available. Additional growth is likely to occur in the urban area east of the Salinas River, but minor annexations to the city would be necessary to fully develop at the densities recommended in the city’s General Plan. The Paso Robles’ General Plan land use

element appendix indicated in Table 1-E¹⁷, Population Projection Details, that only approximately 4% of this growth would occur on the west side of the City, not including the Uptown/Town Centre Specific plan area. Though the bounds of this area referred to as the west side are not clearly defined in the General Plan, part of this area of the City is located within the Atascadero Subbasin. The area to the left of the red line on Figure 3-12¹⁸ indicates roughly the area located in the Atascadero Subbasin which would fall into the west side of the City.

3.8.3 San Luis Obispo County General Plan (2014)

The 2014 San Lis Obispo County General Plan contains three pertinent elements that are related to land use and water supply. Pertinent sections include the following elements:

- Land Use
- Agricultural
- Inland Area Plans

The County's General Plan also contains programs that are specific, non-mandatory actions or policies recommended by the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) to achieve community or area wide objectives. Implementing each LUCE program is the responsibility of the County or other public agency that is identified in the program. Programs are recommended actions rather than mandatory requirements. Implementation of any program by the County should be based on consideration of community needs and substantial community support for the program and its related cost.

The LUCE, adopted in 2014, consolidates and reorganizes the former Adelaida, El Pomar-Estrella, Las Pilitas, Nacimiento, and Salinas River planning areas, and the northern portions of the Los Padres and Shandon-Carrizo planning areas, into a single watershed-based planning area called the North County planning area. The planning area does not conform to the Subbasin boundaries but does provide a general representation of the land use in the area. Figure 3-13 is copied from the County General Plan and shows the planning areas.

Part III of the LUCE includes a component for community plans. Community plans are developed to guide future land use and transportation in specific areas of the County. These include the Templeton community plan and the Santa Margarita community plan. These plans are to be consistent with the other elements of the County General Plan.

¹⁷ <https://www.prcity.com/DocumentCenter/View/14350/Land-Use-Element-Appendix-PDF>

¹⁸ <https://www.prcity.com/DocumentCenter/View/14424/Figure-LU-3---Specific-Plan-Overlay-PDF>

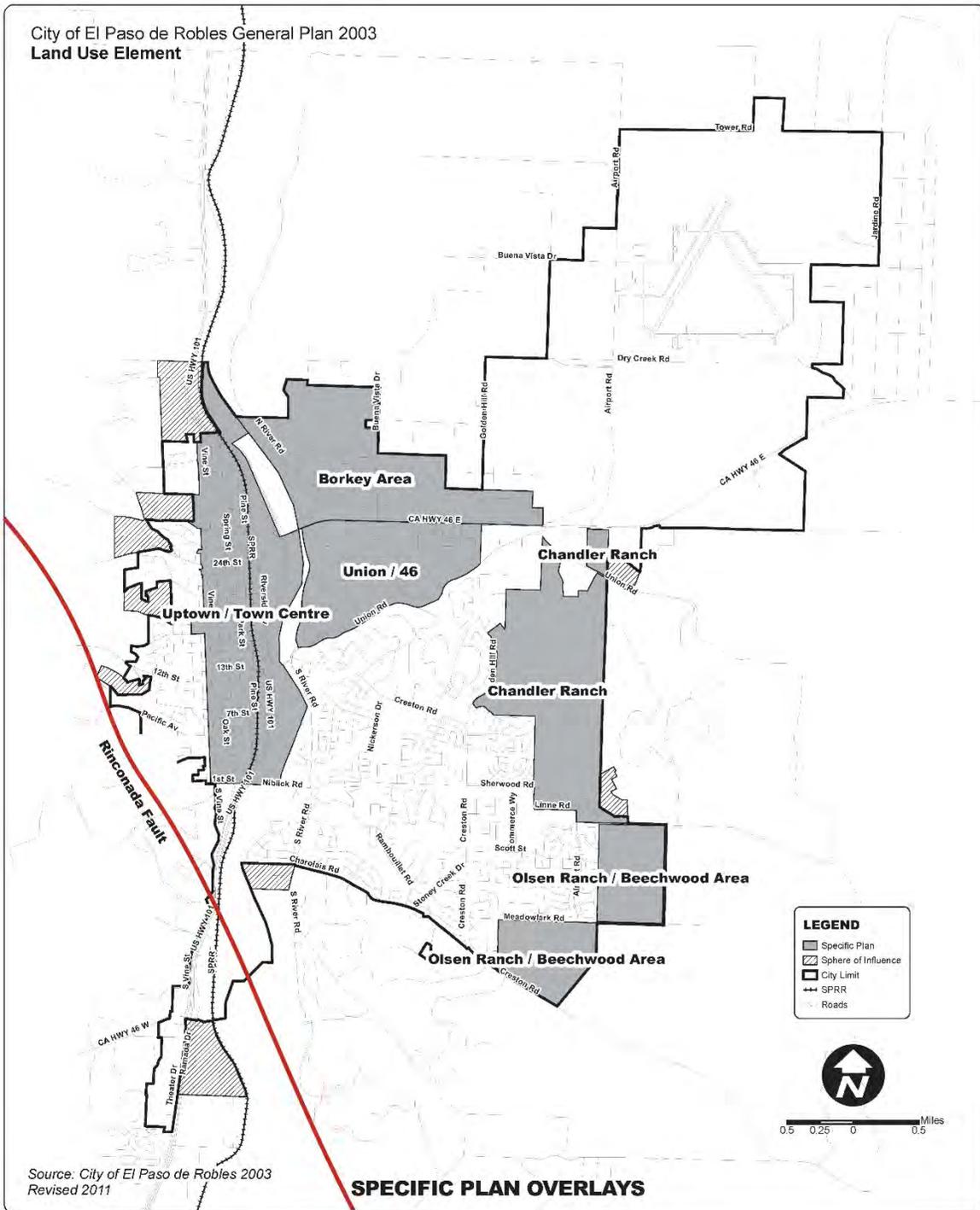


Figure 3-12 Paso Robles' General Plan Specific Plan Overlays

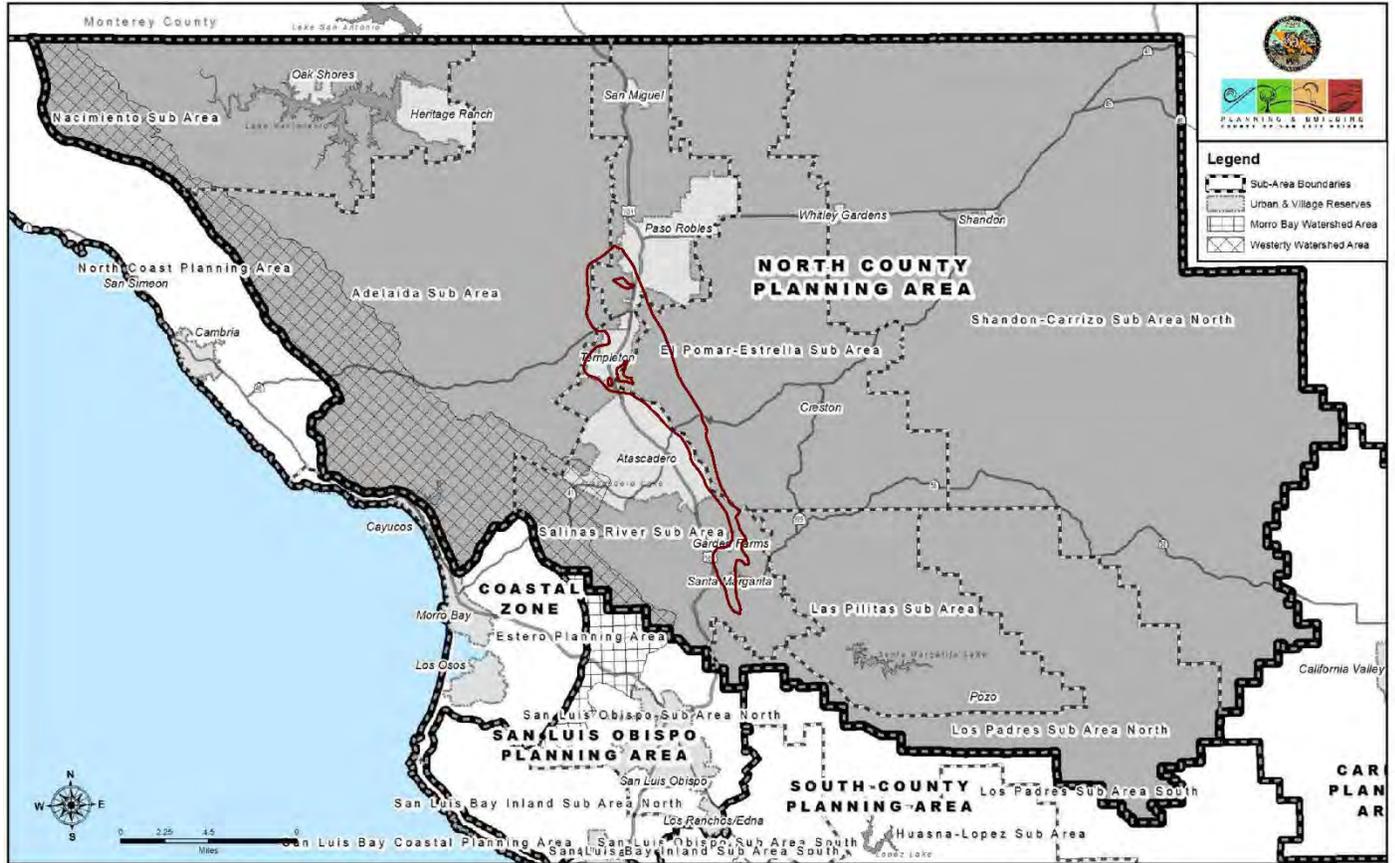


Figure 3-13 North County Planning Subareas

The County’s General Plan identifies land use types and acres within the North County planning area. The data from the 2014 update are summarized in Table 3-10.

Table 3-9 Rural North County Land Use Type and Acreage

Land Use Category	Adelaida	El Pomar-Estrella	Las Pilitas	Los Padres North	Nacimiento	Salinas River	Shandon ²	Total
Agriculture	152,715	104,762	21,270	11,613	36,049	52,954	348,569	727,932
Rural Lands	26,711	14,613	3,528	21,133	31,334	7,945	3,941	109,205
Recreation	277	0	460	0	2,725	664	0	4,126
Open Space	1,352	0	3,520	74,943	9,954	13,630	1,421	104,820
Residential Rural	77	11,816	625	0	2,363	5,530	170	20,581
Residential Suburban	0	363	0	0	0	82	0	445
Residential Single Family	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
Residential Multi-Family	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial Retail	0	0	8	0	0	5	3	16
Commercial Service	0	0	0	0	0	87	3	90
Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
Public Facilities	26,146	2	0	0	0	86	0	26,234
Dalidio Ranch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	207,278	131,556	29,411	107,689	82,425	81,025	354,107	993,491

¹ Acreage quantities are current as of the last major update to each of the former North County area plans (refer to Table 1-1).

² Northern half of the former Shandon-Carrizo planning area.

The San Luis Obispo County General Plan included a table of the U.S. Census Population Estimates between 1960 to 2015. Data from areas within the Subbasin are included in Table 3-11. Population growth has been low since the 1990s.¹⁹

Table 3-10 U.S. Census Population Estimates 1960-2015

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Atascadero	5,983	10,290	16,232	23,138	24,945	26,986	27,366
Paso Robles	6,677	7,168	9,163	18,583	23,370	29,624	30,522
Santa Margarita	630	726	887	1,173	1,279	1,259	1,281
Templeton	950	743	1,216	2,887	4,687	6,976	7,184

The Atascadero General Plan 2025 assumes that an annual growth rate averaging 1.25 percent will be sustained during the next 20 years.²⁰

¹⁹ <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/f98b8501-5194-49b4-bf20-f51feb6359ab/Housing-Element.aspx>
 page 5-4

²⁰ Atascadero General Plan 2025, Updated July 1, 2016 page II-2

The San Luis Obispo County Planning Department estimated potential water demands from rural residential areas in the County. They assumed that a reasonable ultimate build-out equates to development of 75 percent of all possible parcels currently zoned for rural residential areas. This would result in a rural residential demand of just over 37,000 AFY. The estimated growth rate of 2.3 percent per year was assumed. As a result, the County estimated rural residential pumping in 2025 will be 16,504 AF, which is 44 percent of ultimate build-out.

3.8.4 Templeton Community Plan (2014)²¹

The 2014 Templeton Community Plan establishes a vision for the future over the next 20 years. The community plan is a component of Part III of the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the County's General Plan. All other County plans, policies, and programs that involve the community of Templeton and are subject to the County's General Plan are to be consistent with the Templeton Community Plan. The Community Plan describes County land use and transportation programs in the community of Templeton, including regulations adopted in the Land Use Ordinance and Land Use Element.

3.8.5 Santa Margarita Community Plan (1996)²²

The 1996 Santa Margarita Community Plan establishes a vision for the future over the next 20 years. The community plan is a component of Part III of the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the County's General Plan. All other County plans, policies, and programs that involve the Santa Margarita and are subject to the County's General Plan are to be consistent with the Templeton Community Plan. The Community Plan describes County land use and transportation programs in the community of Templeton, including regulations adopted in the Land Use Ordinance and Land Use Element.

3.8.6 Plan Implementation Effects on Existing Land Use

The implementation of the Atascadero GSP is not expected to have an effect on existing land use.

This section will be updated as needed based on future chapters of the GSP are completed.

3.8.7 Plan Implementation Effects on Water Supply

The implementation of the Atascadero GSP is not expected to affect water supply. Prior to the development of this GSP, the Subbasin has in place various water management and land use plans created by the County and cities. These other plans include language on managing the water supply to achieve established sustainability goals. This GSP reiterates those goals.

²¹ <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Forms-Documents/Plans/Community-Plans/Templeton-Community-Plan.aspx>

²² <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getattachment/0eb78520-fc61-412d-9974-282001b64407/Santa-Margarita-Community-Plan.aspx>

This section will be updated as needed based on future chapters of the GSP are completed.

3.8.8 Well Permitting

This section will be updated as needed based on future chapters of the GSP are completed.

3.8.9 Land Use Plans Outside of Subbasin

The stakeholders submitting this GSP have not included information regarding the implementation of land use plans outside the subbasins, as these adjacent subbasins are also required to implement SGMA and their GSPs will require them to achieve sustainable groundwater management.

3.9 Management Areas

The GSA will not be defining any management areas within the Subbasin.

This section will be updated as needed based on future chapters of the GSP are completed.

3.9.1 Reason for Creation