

PASO BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TEMPLETON COMMUNITY CENTER

September 09, 2015
Meeting Minutes

An audio recording of the meeting and materials submitted during public comment are available online at www.PasoBasin.org

Approximately 2:00 pm the meeting is called to order.

1. Introductions and determination of a Quorum- Quorum established.
2. Approve August 20th Meeting Minutes - The August 20th Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) meeting minutes were reviewed. Alternate Member Friedman expresses her concerns about accurate reflection of the public comment section of the minutes. Alternate Member Friedman moves to amend the August 20th minutes, seconded by none. Alternate Member Friedman requests that her failed motion to amend the minutes be mentioned in the minutes. Member McKinley moves to approve the August 20th minutes, seconded by Member Cunha. (12-1-6-5).
3. General Public Comment – Member Sinton discusses the no-export ordinance, a potential concern by City of SLO, and suggests language revision. Alternate Member Friedman discusses the article by Supervisor Mecham and suggests adding an item to the future agenda to discuss solutions mentioned in the article. Member Luft responds by suggesting the In-Basin Subcommittee take up the action of reviewing said solutions. Member Werner reminds the committee that such a process had already been done two years prior and a list of 25 vetted solutions were presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Alternate Member Friedman suggests voting members of the PBAC disclose any conflict of interest prior to voting. Greg Grewal expresses his concern about the August 20th PBAC minutes not accurately reflecting what took place and his concern about the no-export clause. Courtney Howard, County Public Works, introduces Carolyn Berg, County Public Works as the new PBAC Secretary, and explains the staff and roles of the new Water Resources Division. The committee and audience expresses their appreciation of Courtney Howard and her efforts, and she does the same for the efforts of the committee. Member McKinley clarifies the sources of treatment plant water and export out of the basin.
4. County Efforts
 - a. Water District Application Review Process Update – John Diodati, County Public Works, gives an update of the LAFCO meeting on August 20th and the status of the application. He states: (a) That the item was continued to September 17th at 9 am in the BOS Chambers; (b) That exclusion requests will be accepted until August 28th; (c) That the water district will not have the power to export, with

language crafted by David Church, LAFCO Executive Director; (d) That the County is preparing for the conclusion of LAFCO proceedings and getting ready for a formation vote, as well as Prop 218 process, on November 10th; (e) That the election vote will take place on March 8th, 2016; (f) Flood Control District will propose local funding for SGMA compliance on November 10th; (g) That Prop 218 will create a Zone of Benefit, approved by the BOS; (h) That ballots should be available on February 8th.

A question regarding the basin boundary is posed, and John Diodati replies that LAFCO is considering the Fugro Boundary. Discussion ensues on potential outcomes of Prop 218 voting, and potential boundary revisions. A question is posed regarding choosing the basin boundary, and Mr. Diodati responds that at this time, the County has not been directed to submit a basin boundary revision. Discussion ensues on inclusion of the Heritage Ranch in the different basin boundaries and the GSA structure. Mr. Diodati confirms that the basin boundary guidelines are only in draft form. Chair Luft notes that the staff report will be available on Thursday. Greg Grewal questions the ability of LAFCO to use a non-DWR-approved boundary, and Mr. Diodati responds that it is within LAFCO's authority to do so. A discussion ensues regarding the text of the Prop 218 ballot and the clarity of items to be voted on, as well as future annexations.

- b. Countywide Water Conservation Program Development Update – Mike Hanebutt, County Planning and Building, announces two meetings: (1) October 6th is when the program is formally introduced; (2) October 27th is the full hearing where staff will have a presentation with public comment. Mr. Hanebutt announces a soon-to-come press release and other outreach opportunities. Mr. Hanebutt reiterates, from the August PBAC Meeting, that Planning Commission comments and the EIR are now online. Alternate Member Friedman asks for clarification on the removal of the Courtesy Notice, and Mr. Hanebutt explains that the notice is for a ministerial process, not discretionary. Member Kalvans expresses appreciation for accepting his comments. Member Kalvans also inquires about new plantings since the expiration of the urgency ordinance, and Mr. Hanebutt states that there have not been reports as of now. A discussion ensues on the logistics of reporting new plantings and the issue of “pitting neighbor against neighbor”, with Mr. Hanebutt noting that staff resources are limited. Courtney Howard mentions that the County Ag Commissioner would be a resource for irrigated agriculture information. Greg Grewal inquires about good neighbors who are not planting and are dry farming. A question is posed about property changing hands, and Mr. Hanebutt confirms there are no restrictions in place to stop planting in such a situation and no permits are needed. Chair Luft asks the Management Subcommittee to take another look at the PBAC comments and revised language online.
- c. Consider advising the Board of Supervisors regarding County efforts – Chair Luft states that no action items have been brought forward.

5. Subcommittee Reports/ Recommended PBAC Actions

- a. Computer Model Update- Courtney Howard states that the calibration process should be complete within 1-2 weeks, with the Model Update Subcommittee to meet at the end September or beginning of October. She also states that the model should be presented at the October PBAC meeting.
- b. Conservation- Member Best gives an update of the Conservation Subcommittee meeting and states that more information should be available in early 2016.
- c. In-Basin Projects- Member Werner gives an update of the previous In-Basin Subcommittee meeting: Christine Halley gave an update of the wastewater treatment plant and discussed options for supplemental water. Alternate Member Gage gave an update on the USDA retention basin program and the associated convoluted paperwork process. An update was given on the Paso water treatment plant, which is close to being fully operational and has batch tests underway, with the first year of operation being under warranty. Member Werner notes the importance of the treated water. An update is given on the success of the Naci Recovery Well, and it is noted that the new AMWC well levels are increasing and that three shallow wells have been activated. Progress on water conservation by the City of Paso is also noted.

Alternate Member Friedman suggests involving Congresswoman Capps to expedite the lengthy paperwork process of the USDA retention basin program, and discussion ensues on the difficulty of expediting such a process. Member Frost questions funding of the tertiary wastewater treatment facility.

- d. Management- Member Brown gives an update of the Management Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee invited Atascadero Mutual Water Company (AMWC) and Templeton Community Services District (TCSD) to attend and discussed the Atascadero Sub-basin and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) compliance. GEI Consultants are drafting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Member Britz discusses the staged approach to drafting a GSP, with public comment and an informational brochure to come this fall, as well as regular team updates and coordination. Member McKinley states that currently the focus for the City is getting water, not pushing to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Member Brown discusses the cost impact of SGMA. The subcommittee agrees to table the no-export ban language and address that topic at a later date. John Diodati's comments spoke to cost distribution for rural residents. Member Brown further discusses shared powers of the County and the Paso Basin Water District. Member Kalvans inquires why the San Miguel CSD was not invited to that meeting, Member Brown states that the discussion was regarding the Atascadero Sub-basin. Member Kalvans states that San Miguel CSD would like to "go their own way" in the formation of a GSA. Greg Grewal questions the costs for the GSP. Paso City Councilmember Strong comments on the previous objections to Prop 218 which cost \$3 million in delays.

- e. Outreach and Education- The Outreach and Education Subcommittee elected not to meet last month.
 - f. Supply Options- Member Briltz gives an update on the Supply Options Subcommittee and announces a meeting next Friday, September 19th. Member Merrill discusses his desire to see an increase in public relations efforts, as well as the need to move ahead with feasibility analysis of projects to tell voters what's possible. Alternate Member Friedman inquires if the PBAC can recommend that the BOS use Flood Control District reserve funds to pay for such analysis. Member McKinley states that Paso is interested in regional solutions, that the tertiary plant is designed for 4 MGD, and that they are quickly pursuing Prop 1 funding.
6. Nacimiento Project Water Delivery Entitlement Contracts Update – Carolyn Berg states that so far, the Flood Control District has not received any requests from the participants. Members McKinley and Briltz state that they have been in continuous dialogue with County Staff but have had some challenges and delays. There is a new conceptual allocation without an allocation to the FCD. They state that they met with staff and the participants are set to proceed with allocation on a pro-rated basis, with CSA 10 potentially receiving 16 AFY, TCSO receiving 158 AFY, and so on. It is noted that this process is the surest and fastest way for Nacimiento Water to help the groundwater basin because the water can be declared surplus and sold. A discussion ensues on what is left for the Paso Basin Water District, and on the surplus water. Alternate Member Friedman asks why the FCD/County cannot discount the project with reserve funds. Paso City Councilmember Strong states that it is against the law to make a gift of public funds and it is not the water that costs money, it is the infrastructure to distribute it. Greg Grewal states that the overlies have the primary water right, not the water purveyors. Member Kalvans inquires about a regional water treatment plant, and Member Briltz says that each participant uses water differently.
 7. Discuss concerns associated with drilling deep wells in the Paso Basin – Rich Lichtenfels, County Environmental Health, discusses the unprecedented number of well drilling applications being submitted in the last few years. Mr. Lichtenfels discusses the issues of deep well drilling in the Paso Basin, such a deep well intersecting multiple aquifers and degrading water quality. He also discusses the Koda well in Creston and the associated water quality impacts. A member of the public inquires about drilling additional wells. Chair Luft inquires about location of screened intervals, and Mr. Lichtenfels states that drillings must work with a certified geologist. Alternate Member Cunha discusses the use of e-logs in drilling, and Mr. Lichtenfels talks about the seals in a recently drilled 1500 foot well. Chair Luft comments on the lack of “safe yield” for these deeper zones. Alternate Member Baugh and Mr. Lichtenfels discuss the lack of recharge of the older water in lower aquifers. Member Clark asks about well permits moving from ministerial to discretionary, and Mr. Lichtenfels states that permits may move in that direction.

8. Update on Proposition 1 grant funding and consideration of recommendation to request County pursue the “Counties with Stressed Basins” solicitation for the Paso Basin (attachment) – Alternate Member Cunha moves to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, seconded by Member Tracy (20-0-0-4). Carolyn Berg presents updates on the Prop 1 funding. She notes there is \$100 million available for Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program, 10% of which is designated for Severely Disadvantaged Communities, with a 50% cost share requirement. Funding is prioritized for the best projects, doing the most public good, in high/medium priority basins, using new and innovative practices. Projects and proposals must enhance sustainable management of groundwater. She notes that funding is not available for adjudicated basins. Regional projects that are part of an IRWM plan are excluded and there are various compliance requirements for project proposals. Ms. Berg discusses the “Counties with Stressed Basins” funding, which consists of \$10 million at 50% cost share and is designed to develop ordinances or plans to advance sustainable groundwater management. Ms. Berg notes that public comments are currently being accepted, assistance workshops will be in November 2015, application due dates have yet to be determined, and final awards will be announced in March 2016. Comments are due on either document by October 5th, 2015.

Questions are posed regarding comments from the PBAC to help the County with their efforts and the possibility of the County pursuing a grant for the Paso Basin. A comment is made that many partnerships are desirable in the eyes of the State. A member of the audience asks for clarification on a slide regarding exportation, and another asks for the slides to be posted to the website.

9. Consider rescheduling October meeting date if necessary – Chair Luft suggests a tentative replacement date contingent on the LAFCO proceedings. Member Kalvans moves to reschedule the PBAC meeting to October 22nd, if needed, seconded by Member Spencer (20-0-0-4).
10. Public Comment - Paso City Councilmember Strong announces that DWR is organizing a conference at UC Davis on water for food security on October 5th/6th. He notes that the final chapter of the State Groundwater Update 2013 is now online, and that the water use efficiency website has now been updated. On Wed/Thurs of next week, the CA Water Commission is meeting on implementation of SGMA and the water storage investment program. Also, on Friday of next week, there will be a workshop on grant funds. A question is posed to Councilmember Strong on the future of recycled tertiary water use, and Councilmember Strong discusses a water element of the general plan and purple pipe distribution. Member Kalvans discusses water conservation and management in Japan. Carolyn Berg reminds the committee that the PBAC sunsets in March of 2016.
11. Future meeting topics/Committee comments - Member Werner inquires about the water surface elevation trends and maps, and Courtney Howard notes the County updates the hydrographs every April and that staff has not received direction to update the maps as of yet.
12. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned approximately 4:10 pm.

The Paso Basin Advisory Committee approved these minutes on October 15, 2015.
/s/ Carolyn Berg

CAROLYN BERG
Public Works Staff

PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2015

Organization	Representative	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	3-Aug	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS													
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	John Neil	M	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
	Jaime Hendrickson	A	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Central Coast Vineyard Team	Kris Beal	M			X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Willy Cunha	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
City of Atascadero	Vacant	M											
	Vacant	A											
City of Paso Robles	Dick McKinley	M									X	X	
	Christopher Alakel	M							X	X			
	Christopher Alakel	A											
	Christine Halley	A		X									
City of San Luis Obispo	John Ashbaugh	M							X				
	Noah Evans	A	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
County of Monterey (Resource Management Agency)	Tom Moss*	M											
	Carl Holm*	A											
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	Robert Johnson	M									X		
	Howard Franklin	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR)	Steve Sinton	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Kent Gilmore	A									X	X	
Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance	Patricia Wilmore	M											
	Jerry Reaugh	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
San Miguel Community Services District	Anthony Kalvans	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Vacant	A											
Shandon (County Service Area 16)	Susan Howard	M	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Vacant	A											
SLO County Cattlemen's Association	Kurt Bollinger	M			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	Dale Evanson	A			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
SLO County Farm Bureau	Paul Clark	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Megan Silcott	A											
Templeton Community Services District	Jeff Britz	M	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Tina Mayer	A		X									
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD	Devin Best	M	X								X		
	Amy Smart	A					X		X				
AT-LARGE													
Viticulture Agriculturalist At-Large	Dana Merrill	M					X		X				X
	Robert Brown	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Non-Viticulture Irrigated Crop Agriculturalist At-Large	Bill Spencer	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	John DeRosier	A											
Environmental At-Large	Sue Harvey	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Daniel Meade	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rural Residential At-Large	Sue Luft	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Michael Baugh	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Claudia Engel	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Maria Lorca	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Edward C. Redig	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Jim DeRose	A											
	William Frost	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Laurie Gage	A											
	George Tracy	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Don Wilson	A											
(District 1)	Randy Diffenbaugh	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Randy Heinzen	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(District 5)	Erin Faulkner	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Dr. Serena Friedman	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Undesignated At-Large	Larry Werner	M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Miller Newlon	A											

Not Recorded

M = Member; A = Alternate; NM = New Member; NA = New Alternate; O = Other Representatives (e.g Staff, Council, Board, etc.)
~~strikethrough text~~ = indicates that this individual is no longer serving in this role; • = Notified of absence or conflict

* = To be confirmed at a future BOS meeting

