

Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board

March 1, 2021

Paso Basin Planting Ordinance Update



Background – Current Land Use Policy

- **Agricultural Offset Requirements for the Paso Basin**
 - Growers must maintain neutral water use on site based on a 5-year rolling lookback period
 - 5 AFY/site exemption allowed for unirrigated sites outside the area of severe decline
- **August 27, 2013** – Board authorized a version of these requirements through an Urgency Ordinance
- **October 27, 2015** – Board extended the requirements until adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- **November 5, 2019** – Board extended the termination date to January 1, 2022



January 26, 2021 Board Direction

- Planning staff to develop a new land use policy to require planting permits for irrigated crops using water from the Paso Basin **until 2045** with a 3-tiered framework:
 - **Tier 1** – Exemption Clearance Permit for plantings using up to 25 AFY/site of irrigation
 - **Tier 2** – Ministerial Permit for plantings maintaining neutral water use on site with a 6-year lookback period
 - **Tier 3** – Discretionary Permit with CEQA review for plantings that do not fall under Tier 1 or Tier 2



January 26, 2021 Board Direction, Continued

- Planning staff to return ASAP (**April 6, 2021**) with:
 - Environmental Impact Report (EIR) contract
 - Updated estimated timeline
 - Budget augmentation request
 - More developed ordinance framework



More Information

- **January 26, 2021** Board staff report and video available at: www.slocounty.ca.gov/Home/Meetings-Calendar.aspx
- **April 6, 2021** Board staff report will be available the Wednesday before at: www.slocounty.ca.gov
- Email questions to Kylie Hensley, project manager at khensley@co.slo.ca.us.



Questions



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

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