Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, Paso Robles Area Sub-basin

- Groundwater Basin Number: 3-4.06
- County: San Luis Obispo
- Surface Area: 597,000 acres (932 square miles)
Groundwater fills the spaces between soil particles and fractured rock beneath the earth’s surface.
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- Adopted by State in September 2014.

- Requires formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) to manage groundwater supplies through Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for medium and high priority basins.

- State intervention if necessary to protect groundwater resources.
Authority of a GSA

- SGMA provides GSAs with tools and authority to:
  - Require registration of groundwater wells
  - Measure and manage extractions
  - Require reports and assess fees
  - Request revisions of basin boundaries, including establishment of new sub-basins.

- SGMA does not change groundwater rights
Definition of sustainable

- The use of groundwater without causing undesirable results, such as:
  - Chronic lowering of groundwater levels (not including overdraft during a drought)
  - Significant reductions in groundwater storage
  - Significant seawater intrusion
  - Significant degradation of groundwater quality
  - Significant land subsidence
  - Surface water depletions that have significant adverse impact on beneficial uses
What needs to be in a sustainability plan?

• The plan must contain:
  o A physical description of the basin, including groundwater levels
  o Groundwater quality information
  o Analysis of groundwater/surface water interaction
  o Historical and projected water demands and supplies
  o Monitoring and management provisions
  o Description of how the plan will affect other plans

• GSAs may adopt a single plan covering an entire basin, or combine a number plans created by multiple agencies.

• Preparation of groundwater sustainability plans are exempt from CEQA
STATUS OF GSP

• CITY OF PASO ROBLES HIRIED TODD GROUNDWATER TO DO A PRE-GSP ANALYSIS OF EVERYTHING WE NEED TO DO, WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE, AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SUBMIT A COMPLETED GSP THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO DWR – THIS WORK IS COMPLETE

• DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) IS UNDERWAY AND SHOULD BE READY TO ISSUE NEXT WEEK – THIS IS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT AND WAITING COULD BE EXPENSIVE

• ALL PARTIES ARE WORKING TOGETHER AND WILL AGREE ON THE SELECTED FIRM/TEAM, AND ON A BUDGET, BEFORE THE CITY ISSUES A CONTRACT – ALL PARTIES WILL BE PART OF EVERYTHING

• EPC WATER DISTRICT TO BECOME A GSA AND JOIN THE MOA, TO HELP FUND AND WRITE THE GSP
Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects Proposal Solicitation Package
Grant Opportunities

• **Proposition 1** - Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014
  - $100 million for development and implementation of GSPs
  - $1 - $1.5 million per basin
  - 50% minimum cost share or match
  - Phase 1 grant applications due November 10, 2017

**Applications are due to DWR by November 13th**
PROP 1 GRANT

• HYDROMETRICS IS WORKING WITH THE MOA TEAM TO PREPARE THE APPLICATION

• IN-KIND MATCH IS A KEY TO HOLDING DOWN LOCAL OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

• CITY WILL BE THE OFFICIAL APPLICANT BECAUSE THE CITY WILL ALSO BE THE CONTRACTING AGENCY FOR THE GSP CONTRACT

• ALL PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON THE GRANT

• WE ARE WORKING WITH THE MONTEREY COUNTY GROUP ON THE GRANT PROCESS, AND PARTICIPATING IN THE GSP