May 21, 2015

Honorable Debbie Arnold, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re:  Basin Boundaries for Water District Application to LAFCO

Two boundaries exist which could comprise the Paso Basin Water District, that as defined by Fugro (2002) and that which is defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Bulletin 118. The Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) supported the use of the Bulletin 118 boundaries in the application to LAFCO, as submitted by SLO County, since these boundaries are where the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) currently applies. The application to LAFCO describes the area between the Bulletin 118 and Fugro boundaries as being proposed to be within a “negative” sphere of influence.

It is anticipated that one or more local public agencies will request that DWR consider changes to the basin boundaries for purposes of SGMA sometime during 2016. As the Fugro study represents a more recent and thorough geologic analysis of the basin boundaries, it would be reasonable for DWR to determine the basin boundaries should in fact be the boundaries defined by Fugro.

During the LAFCO study session on May 21, 2015, LAFCO staff indicated that using the Fugro boundaries with the Bulletin 118 boundaries being a positive sphere of influence (SOI) might be a more appropriate way to address the boundary differences. If revisions to the basin boundaries are accepted by DWR, the SOI areas will be left as is. If revisions to the boundaries are not approved, these areas will be available for annexation.

On May 21, 2015, the PBAC discussed this issue and voted 16-4-1-3 to recommend that the Fugro boundaries be used, with the Bulletin 118 boundaries forming a positive sphere of influence.

The PBAC recognizes that creating the legal boundary description is a time-consuming process which could take a couple of months to complete. In order to
complete this process without impacting the LAFCO timeline, staff will need to begin this process as soon as possible. We request that they be directed to do so.

We hope that the LAFCO Commissioners will consider these recommendations at their June meeting.

Sincerely,

Sue Luft
Chairperson, Paso Basin Advisory Committee

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts
LAFCO, All Commissioners
David Church, Executive Officer, LAFCO
John Diodati, SLO County Public Works