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: Countywide Water Conservation Program - Draft Amendments to Title 22

Draft revisions to Title 22 regarding crop production were reviewed by the Management Subcommittee of the Paso Basin Advisory Committee (PBAC) on May 4, 2015. Recommendations were developed by the subcommittee, which were reviewed and revised by the PBAC on May 21, 2015. The PBAC voted unanimously to forward the following recommendations to your board with copies to the Planning Commissioners for their consideration.

- The agricultural offset ordinance should be applicable to the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin as defined by Fugro 2002, excluding the Atascadero sub-basin.

- An Agricultural Offset Clearance should not be issued to a receiving site for discontinuous properties within the Red Zone as defined by GEI’s (Fugro) Generalized Difference in Spring Groundwater Elevations between 1997 – 2013 map. The Red Zone is defined as change in groundwater elevation greater than 50 feet which is illustrated in the map’s legend.

- Landowners within the Red Zone should have the option to apply to the County for a discretionary permit for any discontinuous offset proposal within the Red Zone. Under this process, notice to surrounding landowners near the receiving site is required.

- The termination provision (Chapter 22.30.204.H.) should state that the “provisions of this section shall expire upon the adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the PRGWB”.
A courtesy notice should be provided to the applicable Community Services District upon receipt of any agricultural offset clearance application for processing.

We hope that the Planning Commission will consider these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sue Luft
Chairperson, Paso Basin Advisory Committee

cc: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, All Districts
San Luis Obispo County Planning Commissioners, All Districts
Planning Department staff - Trevor Keith, Xzandrea Fowler, Mike Hanebutt