



SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING May 22, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Shandon-San Juan Water District/Shandon-San Juan Groundwater Sustainability Agency will hold a special meeting at **9:00 A.M.** on **May 22, 2024**, at SVP Winery located at 111 Clark Rd, Shandon, CA 93461.

Alternate Location: Director Miller will participate in the meeting via teleconference from 132 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, 93101.

Virtual Options for Public Participation:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88510055315?pwd=Y0hpazl2NWZsU2dvSGZsREwydUgvdz09>

Meeting ID: 885 1005 5315 **Passcode:** 095610 **Dial:** (669) 900-6833

To view supporting documents, go to: <https://www.ssjwd.org/agendas-minutes>

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment**
4. **Joint Meeting with the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District/Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency to Discuss and Consider the Next Steps in GSP Implementation. Multiagency meeting pursuant to Government Code Section 54954(b)(3).**
 - a. **Monitoring Network:**
 - i. Discuss pathways to expedite getting more monitoring wells online – identify locations and timing.
 - ii. Discuss components for a long-term, unified monitoring system.
 - b. **DWR Periodic Evaluation:** Discuss progress toward sustainability for inclusion in the DWR Periodic Evaluation due 1/30/25 (5-year GSP Update). Identify actions that can be taken in the next few months that will demonstrate serious intent and progress by the GSAs.
 - i. Progress to Date
 - ii. SSJWD Applications for Supplemental Water - Nacimiento and Salinas River
 - iii. Purple Pipe in Paso Robles
 - iv. Monitoring Wells and Stream Gauges
 - v. State Water Project
 - vi. SkyTEM Information
 - vii. Leapfrog Modeling of the Basin
 - viii. Preliminary Identification of Recharge Sites
 - ix. Land IQ to Measure Extraction in the Basin
 - c. **Future Grant Funding Requirement:** Should funding for water project development in the Basin include a requirement that the benefits of such projects be provided to the Basin at, or near cost?
 - d. **Review and Consider Approving the PBCC Budget for FY 24-25.** SSJGSA's portion is \$121,200 - 20.2%.
 - e. **Review and Consider Approving a Proposal from Tripepi Smith for Public Outreach and Communications Support.**
5. **Adjourn**

NOTE: In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), if you need special assistance to access the meeting room or otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact Bertoux & Co. 930 Nysted Dr. St. A Solvang, CA 93463 805-451-0841 admin@ssjwd.org. Notification of at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting will help enable reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting. Copies of Meeting Documents can be found on our District Webpage <https://www.ssjwd.org/> or requested by contacting Bertoux & Co. 930 Nysted Dr. St. A Solvang, CA 93463 805-451-0841 admin@ssjwd.org.

Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Notice of Regular Meeting

AGENDA

May 22, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee will hold a Regular Meeting at **4:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**, at the Paso Robles Council Chambers, 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83359446962?pwd=bGJFK3pXYitOQ0hWdk5mZTBXWDFoZz09>
 Meeting ID: 833 5944 6962
 Passcode: 068456
 Call-in: +16694449171,,83359446962#,,,,*068456# US

NOTE: The Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to participate in the meeting of the PBCC are encouraged to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of the meeting from Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385.

Members

Matt Turrentine, Chair, Shandon-San Juan WD
 Berkley Baker, Vice Chair, San Miguel CSD
 John Hamon, Secretary, City of Paso Robles
 Bruce Gibson, Treasurer, County of SLO
 Dana Merrill, Estrella El-Pomar Creston WD

Alternates

Ray Shady, Shandon-San Juan WD
 Kelly Dodds, San Miguel CSD
 Sharon Roden, City of Paso Robles
 Blaine Reely, County of SLO
 Hilary Graves, Estrella El-Pomar Creston WD

1. Call to Order (**Turrentine**) (1 min)
2. Pledge of Allegiance (**Turrentine**) (1 min)
3. Roll Call (**Blakslee**) (1 min)
4. Meeting Protocols (**Blakslee**) (2 min)
5. Public Comment – Items not on Agenda (**Turrentine**) (3 min/speaker)

REPORT ITEMS

6. GSA Staff Report (**Reely/Blakslee**) (30 min)
7. Update on Blended Irrigation Water Supply Project (**WSC**) (20 min)

ACTION ITEMS

8. Approval of March 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Turrentine**) (5 min)
9. Update from Committee Members or Staff (10 min) – *Verbal*
 - a. City of Paso Robles
 - b. County of San Luis Obispo
 - c. San Miguel Community Services District
 - d. Shandon-San Juan Water District
 - e. Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
10. Upcoming meeting(s) (**Blakslee**) (2 min)
 - a. Next PBCC Meeting – July 24, 2024
11. Future Items (2 min)
12. Correspondence (1 min) – *Nothing to Report*
13. Adjourn (5:20 p.m.)

For more information, please visit the Groundwater Sustainability Agency websites at:

County of San Luis Obispo - www.slocounty.ca.gov/sgma | Shandon-San Juan Water District – www.ssjwd.org |
 City of Paso Robles – www.prcity.com | San Miguel CSD – www.sanmiguelcsd.org | Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District www.epcwd.org

PASO BASIN COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE
May 22, 2024

Agenda Item #6 – GSA Staff Report

Recommendation

None; information only.

Prepared By

Blaine Reely, County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director

Discussion

The Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) staff report contains updates on the following items:

- a. Report on SGMA GSP Round 1 Grant Implementation
- b. Update on the State Water Project Feasibility RFP
- c. Update on the GSP Periodic Evaluation RFP
- d. Update on a Contract with Land IQ to Estimate Agricultural Water
- e. Update on GSA Approval of MOA Amendment No. 2
- f. Update on Individual GSA Approval of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget
- g. Update on Consultant Procurement Guidelines

a. Report on SGMA GSP Round 1 Grant Implementation

Invoice No. 6 covering the period October through December 2023 has been submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for approval. The DWR grant administrator for the Paso region recently resigned and a replacement administrator is being assigned. Invoice No.7, covering the January through March 2024 period, is currently being assembled. A draft schedule of the grant-funded projects is provided as **Attachment 1**.

b. Update on the State Water Project Feasibility RFP

In coordination with GSA staff, a request for proposals (RFP) for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin State Water Project Supplemental Water Supply Project Feasibility and Engineering Study was issued on April 26, 2024 and proposals are due May 20, 2024.

The purpose of the RFP is to solicit offers from qualified firms to provide water resources planning, contracts and policy assessment, engineering, and preliminary design services as required to complete a water supply feasibility and engineering study and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to assess the feasibility of delivering water supplies from the State Water Project (SWP) to the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin) for various potential uses including Basin recharge and / or for agricultural use as an in-lieu water supply to allow for reduced groundwater pumping in the Basin, including an evaluation of alternatives for delivering both treated and raw water supplies from the SWP.

c. Update on the GSP Periodic Evaluation RFP

In coordination with GSA staff, an RFP for the Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 5-Year Periodic Evaluation was issued on April 30, 2024 and proposals are due May 20, 2024.

The purpose of the RFP is to solicit proposals from qualified firms to develop the Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 5-Year Periodic Evaluation required by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and submit to DWR by the January 30, 2025 deadline. Additionally, the selected consultant will coordinate with GSA staff to address the DWR-identified GSP corrective actions from DWR's Statement of Findings.

d. Update on a Contract with Land IQ to Estimate Agricultural Water

On March 27, 2024, the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) provided direction to enter into a one-year contract with Land IQ to estimate agricultural water use using a satellite-based evapotranspiration methodology. A contract was executed on April 18, 2024 and Land IQ will begin working with GSA staff and landowners to site in-field calibration stations and begin delivery of monthly ET values.

e. Update on GSA Approval of MOA Amendment No. 2

A verbal update on GSAs that approved amendment No. 2 to the MOA will be provided at the May 22, 2024 regular PBCC meeting.

f. Update on Individual GSA Approval of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

A verbal update on GSAs that approved the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget will be provided at the May 22, 2024 regular PBCC meeting.

g. Update on Consultant Procurement Guidelines

At the March 27, 2024, regular PBCC meeting, several questions arose regarding the process of developing and issuing RFPs, and Directors requested staff implement an internal policy. The draft policy for the RFP development process was developed in coordination with GSA staff and is provided as **Attachment 2** for reference.

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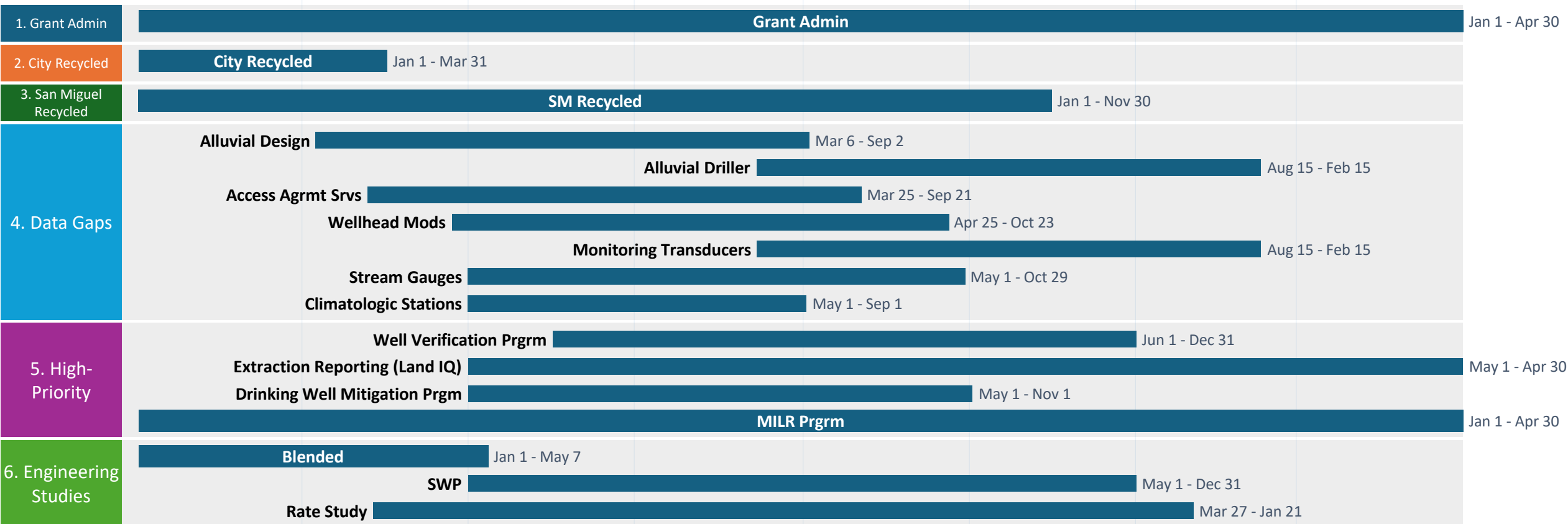
Paso Basin \$7.6M Grant Implementation Schedule

2024

2025



Today



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Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Consultant Procurement Guidelines

Version 1.0

Purpose

The purpose of this guidance document is to establish an internal process for the procurement of consultant services in the Paso Basin to ensure transparency, fairness, and effectiveness in the procurement process.

Scope

This guidance document applies to all Paso Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) involved in the procurement of goods and services through the issuance of RFPs for items that are included in the approved Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) budget or anticipated to be cost-shared among the PBCC GSAs. Policy version 1.0 is in effect while the PBCC is governed by the PBCC Memorandum of Agreement which includes Amendment No. 2.

Consultant Procurement Process

1. Grant-Funded or PBCC Budget Items
 - a. For grant-funded items, RFPs will be developed in accordance with the approved grant spending plan.
 - b. For Budgeted items, RFPs will be developed as required for any items in the approved PBCC budget.
 - c. The County and City will coordinate to determine which agency will take the lead on RFP administration (Contracting Entity) (MOA Amendment 2 specifies that only the City or County have the authority to administer RFPs on behalf of the PBCC).
 - d. RFPs will be coordinated (developed and reviewed) among GSA staff.
 - e. The Contracting Entity will publish the RFP and select the consultant based on the Contracting Entity's selection policy, which will include GSA staff participation in the selection process.
 - f. Updates on grant-funded RFPs will be reported at regular PBCC meetings.
2. Un-Budgeted Items
 - a. If a GSA identifies the need for an RFP that is not funded by an existing grant or the approved budget and is anticipated to be cost-shared among the GSAs, then that GSA will communicate the request to all GSA staff via email.
 - b. An item will be added to the agenda for PBCC and GSA approval, and if approved, the budget will be amended and RFP development will begin.
 - c. The County and City will coordinate to determine which agency will take the lead on RFP administration (MOA Amendment 2 specifies that only the City or County have the authority to administer RFPs on behalf of the PBCC).

- d. The Contracting Entity will develop the RFP and email the draft RFP to GSA staff for review.
- e. Following coordination of PBCC GSA staff edits, the Contracting Entity will publish the RFP.
- f. The published RFPs are available to the public at the following online locations:
 - i. City of Paso Robles: <https://www.prcity.com/Bids.aspx>
 - ii. County of SLO Central Service (Purchasing):
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Central-Services/Purchasing-Services/Services/Bid-RFP-Opportunities.aspx>
- g. The Contracting Entity will appoint a Selection Committee (comprised of GSA staff and other stakeholders as appropriate).
- h. The Selection Committee will perform independent reviews of proposals and recommend selecting of the qualified consultant to the Contracting Entity.
- i. The Contracting Entity will select a consultant which will be reported to the PBCC GSA staff via email and at the next scheduled PBCC meeting.

Review and Revision

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with best practices, regulatory requirements, and organizational objectives. Amendments or revisions may be made as necessary with approval from the PBCC.

PASO BASIN COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE
May 22, 2024

Agenda Item #8 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Recommendation

Approve the Regular March 27, 2024, meeting minutes

Prepared By

Blaine Reely, County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director

Discussion

The regular March 27, 2024 meeting minutes are provided as Attachment 1 for consideration of approval.

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Paso Basin Cooperative Committee
DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2024

The following members or alternates were present:

- Matt Turrentine**, Chair, Shandon-San Juan Water District GSA
- Berkley Baker**, Vice Chair, San Miguel Community Services District GSA
- John Hamon**, City of Paso Robles GSA
- Bruce Gibson**, Treasurer, County of SLO
- Dana Merrill**, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA

1. Call to Order	Chair Turrentine: calls the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance	Chair Turrentine: leads the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll call	Project Manager, Taylor Blakslee: calls roll.
4. Meeting Protocols	Project Manager, Blakslee provides an overview of meeting protocols.
5. Public Comment – Items not on Agenda	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:00:00</i> Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Grey Grewal: comments we have a problem of not showing what’s coming into the Basin. We have a problem with not showing what’s being evaporated for the Basin. An example is we had representatives that said, people over the Basin couldn't use an extra 25 acre feet of water, which really would have been 20 because they already had 5 acre feet. Now we find out that we have more evaporation of water off of ag ponds than we had, if those people would have been allowed to use water on their property. That's unacceptable. That means we need to look at that, and this needs to be corrected. And now we find out that the ag ponds have more evaporation than what that water was going to fix. And we have too many agencies that are sitting here that aren’t using all their water. This, we would call supplemental water. It’s not being used in-lieu of pumping. That's unacceptable. That water should be used first. If you're not an overlier, you don't have the priority right to the first use of the water. You have to use your other water. And that needs to be identified in all this stuff. It's going to cost me more. That's your problem. That's not the basin people’s problem. We took a vote on AB2453 on what we wanted to happen in this Basin and then we circle around and screwed those people, coming around the corner, having secret meetings, and coming up with people to be on GSAs and different things where the people over the basin voted against them in the first place.</p> <p>This needs to come up to the surface. It needs to be filtered up on. What are we actually trying to do here spending money on projects that don't matter? I sent some photos to one of the staff members here on five months of water that was going into the Creston area that has never been recorded. Thank you.</p> <p>Nancy McDevitt: comments I have been the northside of Paso near Stagecoach and Preston and great and smack in the middle of whole lot of vineyards and</p>

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support the work of Murray Powell and the efforts of all of the people that I live around who are trying to survive with wells. Murray and I have gotten to be quite friendly with all the problems that we have up in our area, but the biggest problem that we do have is the fact that our wells are going dry. Years ago, my husband and I moved here from the east Coast, and I know that we were hoping to develop the land for growing as my husband is a chef (farm to table). It went really well until we, all of a sudden, were running out of water at very obvious times. I have emails and data that I will leave with you and follow-ups of every conversation with everyone, Miller Drilling, Philip Honey and the water suppliers, who charge us for the water that they get from our Basin and then sell it back to us. So, we can't really grow on our property anymore. We have been told that we need to dig a deeper. We did not know, when we bought the house, how deep the well really was, which was 580 feet, they told us it was 500 and we had a pump replaced all of this costing quite a lot of money, which I will quote in a moment. And telling us we had to go to 700 feet and we're talking about \$65-\$75 thousand dollars. So what do we do? Last year, I sent an email to Murray saying you know I'm pretty much tapped out here, we woke up one more time, no water around the beginning of growing season. We had to order water. They brought it out, happily, they brought us \$500 worth of water. Unfortunately, we can only take \$250 dollars' worth of water so they drove away with the other \$250 because you can't take the whole order. So I said well how are we going to do this? Why don't we get our second reserve tank? Build the pad, get that all done, second reserve tank is done, another \$10 thousand dollars. The next time I order water I can take the full order which I had to do. And I want to say around early November, when they had a really cold harvest time and they needed to irrigate to save crops. The point I was trying to make is that I'm buying water that comes from my own basin and I was aware and have been made aware that a lot of the land around us which one we moved here, 12 years ago, was not developed for properties and for vineyards, much less vineyards for people who own them that don't even live in the state of California.

My name is Robert Ersen. I live in San Miguel and am a farmer. I have about 23 acres about 15, acres under dry land farming. I moved here 10 years ago, there's moratorium on irrigated agriculture. So I moved down here, I respected that I went out there with bench grafted vines planned in February praying that it would rain. I got this vineyard to take and it's producing now. After 10 years it is producing beautiful grapes. I would save my dishwasher and run out there in summer, go out there and water, the grapes that were suffering because they just didn't have enough water but I did it after 10 years. Same with my olive trees. I've got 300-400 olive trees fighting every hot day and praying it rains. Thank God the last two years we got some rain. It's rural, everyone's on wells. And then all of a sudden, the county wants to put a cannabis operation in back in our neighborhood and they want to give them water, they want to give them three-to-four acre feet of water to grow cannabis and I'm thinking to myself, wait a minute, I've been sitting here and can't use water and I respect the County's

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moratorium. When they said people need water for cooking, raising families, showering, basic stuff that what we call civilization. We have water for civilization and now they want to give them water and then I was, I'm new at this, I'm not a fight City Hall type of guy, I work two jobs. I was at the San Miguel Advisory Council, I was talking to, I forget who it was, there was somebody from the County telling me that they're gonna offset it with flushing toilets, they're going to change out how many gallons that you flush your toilet. And, you know, you could put some emitters that reduce the water flow and I'm wondering, how are you going to enforce that? And plus, we all know those toilets you've got to flush it twice, So, I'm just here to really question what's going on with the water in the Basin. Again, I'm not here to fight City Hall and make a big deal. I'm just curious and I'm learning more about this. I'm wondering about this offset. It's all it's all Greek to me, but I'm really getting up up to speed on it and I'm just gonna question everybody here, too. Why is it important to grow cannabis here? They can grow that stuff in Washington State, Oregon anywhere where it grows, why do we want it in this County? Do we want to use our precious water for our families who just spoke, who had a business growing vegetables for us to eat, and we want to grow cannabis? They can grow that in Pennsylvania where I grew up, they got all the water in the world back there. Thank you very much. I really appreciate your time.

Murray Powell: I just want to follow up real quick on Miss McDevitt's comments. I didn't hear all of it, but I know her for a couple reasons, not related to water. And you saw the folks that were here, filming. They're doing a documentary on what you guys are doing partially. I was out at her place back in October and they were filming her interview and her and her husband on their water problem and at that time, their well was working. So on, Thanksgiving Day this last November, I got an email in the morning from her. Well, guess what? We got up this morning in our house, it was gonna have water but, Miller Drilling came out and took a look it wasn't a pump problem but a dry well. The well is 580 feet deep and Miller was proposing to drill to 700 feet and the estimate I think she has was \$60 grand. That's for one well, one domestic well you know me I've been harping on you guys, now for a long time about domestic wells. They don't have \$60 grand. So right now they do have some water because all of the vineyards on Creston Road, they're up on Stage, at the top of the hill, aren't irrigated, but I can guarantee you that when the irrigation starts in the next month or two, they're going to be out of water again and what are you guys doing about it? You know, I'm reading this GSP, I know it's going to be on the agenda and I don't see hardly anything that's been accomplished by this committee or these GSAs going back, seven years. And today, there are more dry wells going as we speak.

Bruce Gibson: says he is the County representative here and to please contact his office to discuss the various issues that were framed up and give a projection of where we are headed in the future.

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	Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.
6. Response to Previous Public Comments	<i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:13:30</i> Nothing to report.
7. Report on SGMA GSP Round 1 Grant Implementation	<i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:13:46</i> Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 7 Report on SGMA Round 1 Grant Implementation. Mr. Blakslee: reviews the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) GSP Round 1 grant implementation progress and invoicing. Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment. No comments
8. Update on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Cost of Service Rate Study RFP	<i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:16:12</i> Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 8 Update on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Cost of Service Rate Study RFP. Mr. Blakslee: reviewed the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Cost of Service Rate Study RFP. He reports that interviews with select firms took place on March 21, 2024 and following those interviews the Selection Committee selected SCI Consulting Group. Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment. Greg Grewal: comments. Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment. Dana Merrill: comments that it is going to be a lot harder to get State funding going forward and it will be very important to implement a funding mechanism for the basin. Jerry Reaugh: comments he was part of the Selection Committee and says they are exploring ways to get the keep the lights on funding. He says the rate study will not be completed until January 2025 and says he would like to understand if there is a way to expediate administrative funding. Bruce Gibson: says that right now the “keep the lights on” funding is being provided by GSAs. He says it is fair to look at this rate study to determine what fees look like from GSA to GSA.
9. Update on the Paso Robles Groundwater	<i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:27:19</i> Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 9 Update on the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Alluvial Monitoring Wells Design and Construction Support Services Consultant

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<p>Basin Alluvial Monitoring Wells Design and Construction Support Services Consultant</p>	<p>Mr. Reely: reviews Alluvial Monitoring Wells Design and Construction Support Services Consultant RFP and announces it was issued in January 2024, proposals were received by February 9, 2024 and a Selection Committee reviewed all proposals and Cleath-Harris Geologists was selected.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Murray Powell: comments.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments.</p> <p>Chair: responds that the RFP was shared at a previous meeting and is a public document.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: adds that RFPs are made available on the County Central Services website.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Dana Merrill: asks what the item covers?</p> <p>Chair: responds DWR identified data gaps in the GSP and areas for improvement.</p> <p>Dana Merrill: asks what is the project costs?</p> <p>Mr. Reely: replies the cost of this project is \$200,000.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: requests for future items put cost on the slides.</p>
<p>10. Update on the Paso Roble Groundwater Basin Monitoring Well Network Expansion Landowner Access Agreement Acquisition Support Services RFP</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:38:22</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 10 Update on the Paso Roble Groundwater Basin Monitoring Well Network Expansion Landowner Access Agreement Acquisition Support Services RFP.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: reviews the Monitoring Well Network Expansion Landowner Access Agreement Acquisition Support Services RFP. He says landowner permission will be required to bring these wells into the monitoring network. The consultant would work with landowners to gain access to these properties for monitoring purposes. He says proposals were received are currently under review by the Selection Committee.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments.</p>

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	<p>Murray Powell: comments.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: responds each RFP are distributed to the GSAs and GSA staff has the opportunity to modify each RFP.</p> <p>Bruce Gibson: suggests revising each table to reflect accurate dates and list when the contract would be taken PBCC for review.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Dana Merrill: asks who from San Miguel participates in RFP reviews?</p> <p>Mr. Reely: responds Joshua Reynolds with WSC.</p>
<p>11. Update on the State Water Project Feasibility RFP</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:46:50</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 11 Update on the State Water Project Feasibility RFP.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: comments that progress continues on development of the State Water Project (SWP) feasibility study RFP.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments.</p> <p>Ann Myhre: comments.</p> <p>Murray Powell: comments.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: responds this item was reviewed at the last meeting and the RFP is now being developed.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: reviews the purpose of the study and says the goal is to determine if the SWP supply can support the groundwater basins in our area and whether the basins can store excess supplies.</p>
<p>12. Approval of October 25, 2023, and February 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 00:56:33</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 12 Approval of October 25, 2023, and February 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Jerry Reaugh: says on the February 7th agenda Item No. 13, the presentation he gave was a recommendation from PBCC staff and was not an individual</p>

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	<p>recommendation from EPC staff and requested the verbiage be changed to “he notes the PBCC staff is recommending...”</p> <p>Blaine Reely: Suggests referencing GSA staff, not PBCC staff.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Motion by: Dana Merrill Second by: John Hamon Motion: Committee approves the October 25, 2023 and February 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes with the edit as presented.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Members</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Ayes</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Noes</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Abstain</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Recuse</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Matt Turrentine (Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Hamon</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruce Gibson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X*</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dana Merrill</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>*Committee Member Gibson abstained from the February 7, 2024 meeting minutes vote.</i></p>	Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse	Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X				Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)	X				John Hamon	X				Bruce Gibson	X		X*		Dana Merrill	X			
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<p>13. Recommend Staff Develop an RFP for the DWR Periodic Evaluation Due January 30, 2025</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 01:00:36</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 13 Recommend Staff Develop an RFP for the DWR Periodic Evaluation Due January 30, 2025.</p> <p>Mr. Blakslee: reviews the RFP for the DWR periodic evaluation due on January 30, 2025. He reports that DWR requires a periodic evaluation of the GSP at a minimum of every five years. He says it is anticipated that the costs associated with this item are shared among the PBCC GSAs in accordance with the cost percentages outlined in the MOA. He presents the DWR GSP determination, draft GSP update timeline, next steps, and recommended corrective actions and reports the staff recommendation is to develop and issue an RFP to hire a consultant to develop the GSP periodic evaluation while addressing DWR’s recommended corrective actions and submit the periodic evaluation to DWR by the January 30, 2025, deadline.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments:</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Chair: asks if the timeline anticipates that the RFP comes to the PBCC before it is published.</p>																														

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	<p>Mr. Reely: responds if it the Committees desire to see all RFPs before they are published, we would need to hold more meetings while these RFPs are being developed to review them in a timely manner.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: replies if we are going to have an approach for the various RFPs this committee reviews, he recommends a policy is developed for approving items like this.</p> <p>Motion by: John Hamon Second by: Bruce Gibson Motion: Direct GSA staff to develop an RFP to develop the GSP periodic evaluation and submit to DWR by the January 30, 2025.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Members</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Ayes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Noes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Abstain</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Recuse</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Matt Turrentine (Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Hamon</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruce Gibson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dana Merrill</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse	Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X				Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)	X				John Hamon	X				Bruce Gibson	X				Dana Merrill	X			
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<p>14. Recommend Staff Develop an RFP to Retain a Consultant to Estimate Agricultural Water Use by a Satellite-Based Evapotranspiration (ET) Methodology</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 01:16:25</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 14 Recommend Staff Develop an RFP to Retain a Consultant to Estimate Agricultural Water Use by a Satellite-Based Evapotranspiration (ET) Methodology.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: provides the background for this item.</p> <p>Jerry Reaugh: reports that the PBCC requested a revised proposal from Land IQ for a one-year period and that proposal was received for a total of \$98,000.00 with options for a second and third year for services. He notes Land IQ also included an option to purchase and install weather stations which would be owned by the County for an additional cost.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: asks if costs for this proposal are grant funded?</p> <p>Mr. Reely: responds yes with the exception of the covariance stations, which would require confirmation from DWR if additional weather stations would be eligible for grant reimbursement.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: comments that the numbers presented in the slides presented by Mr. Reaugh were from a proposal received last night so most GSA have not been able to review the proposal.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments.</p>																														

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Ann Myhre: comments.

Murray Powell: comments.

Jerry Lohr: comments.

Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.

Dana Merrill: says we need to make progress to hold out on requiring every well to be metered. He says ET is heavily used by big water districts throughout the Central Valley and utilizing meter data and gathering it into a database is costly. He says the presentation we received was good and had some good information and Land IQ was willing to work with us based on our size and needs.

Berkley Baker: asks what the value of one year. He says it seems like it needs to be a long-term project to make sense. He also asks if the basin has enough wells to appropriately groundtruth the system. In terms of cost, he says this is an issue for San Miguel Community Services District and there are 900 people that pay for everything they do, and this is important to consider.

Chair Turrentine: comments something like this needs to happen on a one-year basis and something is going to need to happen on a longer term basis. As far as cost is concerned, we also need to make this as equitable as possible and that is what the rate study is going to help with. He says the Land IQ service is being used by a lot of entities in California and by DWR for SGMA related purposes and is in support of the proposal.

John Hamon: says ET is an excellent tool and is in agreement that this is something that we need to do and will continue to use.

Mr. Reely: reports that contracting would be done by the County, and it was broken up by year because year one could potentially be funded with grant funds. He says we also have the question of can the County go through with the sole source and need to look into this.

Bruce Gibson: says we need to do something like this and also groundtruth it so that we can ensure it is accurate. He says he is fully supportive and happy to support the motion.

Berkley Baker: asks for clarification on the proposal included in the packet and costs associated with groundtruth stations.

Mr. Reely: replies the proposal included in the packet is not the most recent proposal we have received.

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	<p>Chair Turrentine: says we have consensus to move forward with a one-year contract.</p> <p>John Hamon: says he is supportive of including 2 and 3 years in the proposal.</p> <p>Mr. Reely: clarifies that the contract language can be added to include the potential to extended for 2 or 3 years.</p> <p>Motion by: Dana Merrill Second by: Bruce Gibson Motion: Direct staff to proceed with the proposal as presented and confirm it can be sole-sourced.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Members</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Ayes</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Noes</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Abstain</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Recuse</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Matt Turrentine (Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Hamon</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruce Gibson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dana Merrill</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse	Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X				Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)		X			John Hamon	X				Bruce Gibson	X				Dana Merrill	X			
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<p>15. Presentation and Potential Action on Annual Report Submittal for Water Year 2023</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 01:53:44</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 15 Presentation and Potential Action on Annual Report Submittal for Water Year 2023.</p> <p>Taylor Blakslee: reviews the Water Year 2023 Annual Report and comments received and incorporated as revisions to the Water Year 2023 Annual Report. He notes several comments were received and reviewed by GSA staff. He says some comments were incorporated and are included in Appendix L of the report.</p> <p>Nate Page: provides background on GSI’s preparation of the WY 2023 Annual Report and notes GSI has prepared these updates for the last 3 years. Mr. Page reviews the updates including groundwater elevations for spring and fall, water use information, change in groundwater storage, and updates on projects and management actions.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Greg Grewal: comments.</p> <p>Murray Powell: comments.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Bruce Gibson: thanks staff for their hard work and dedication and appreciate the improvements made.</p> <p>Berkley Baker: asks what the level of accuracy is for the tables and charts.</p>																														

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	<p>Mr. Page: responds that all charts and tables are developed using the best data available without ground truthing, and is why he is supportive of Land IQ to help verify some of that information.</p> <p>Motion by: Bruce Gibson Second by: John Hamon Motion: Approve the Water Year 2023 Annual Report and submit to DWR.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Members</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Ayes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Noes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Abstain</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Recuse</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Matt Turrentine (Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Hamon</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruce Gibson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dana Merrill</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse	Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X				Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)	X				John Hamon	X				Bruce Gibson	X				Dana Merrill	X			
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<p>16. Recommend Individual GSAs Approve the PBCC Draft Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 02:22:57</i> Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 16 Recommend Individual GSAs Approve the PBCC Draft Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.</p> <p>Mr. Blakslee: reviews the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Budget and timeline. He reports the GSA staff met in early March to refine the budget and reduced FY 2024-2025 costs for non-grant funded costs to \$600,000.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Murray Powell: comments.</p> <p>Chair Turrentine: closes the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Motion by: John Hamon Second by: Bruce Gibson Motion: Recommend individual GSAs adopt the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Members</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Ayes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Noes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Abstain</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Recuse</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Matt Turrentine (Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Hamon</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruce Gibson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dana Merrill</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse	Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X				Berkley Baker (Vice Chair)	X				John Hamon	X				Bruce Gibson	X				Dana Merrill	X			
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<p>17. Update from Member GSA PBCC Staff</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. City of Paso Robles</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. County of</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 02:30:25</i> Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 15 Update from Member GSA PBCC Staff.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>																														

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<p>San Luis Obispo</p> <p>c. San Miguel Community Services District</p> <p>d. Shandon-San Juan Water District</p> <p>e. Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District</p>	
<p>18. Upcoming meeting(s)</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 02:30:50</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 18 Upcoming meeting(s).</p> <p>Taylor Blakslee: reports the next regular scheduled PBCC meeting is on May 22, 2024.</p>
<p>19. Future Items</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 02:31:09</i></p> <p>Bruce Gibson: notes the SWP RFP is in development and we should be seeing results of that and would also like an update on basin outreach efforts.</p>
<p>20. Correspondence</p>	<p><i>Meeting Audio: Item start ~ 02:32:03</i></p> <p>Chair Turrentine: opens discussion for Agenda Item 20 Correspondence.</p> <p>No correspondence was presented.</p>
<p>21. Adjourn</p>	<p>Chair Turrentine adjourns the meeting at 6:34 p.m.</p>

Drafted by: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

SECTION 8: Progress towards Basin Sustainability (§ 356.2[c])

8.1 Introduction

This section describes several projects and management actions that are in process, have been initiated, or have been recently implemented in the Subbasin as a means to improve groundwater conditions, avoid potential undesirable results, attain subbasin sustainability, and improve understanding of the Subbasin groundwater dynamics as well as implications of GSP implementation. These projects and actions include capital projects and non-structural policies intended to reduce or optimize local groundwater use. Some of these projects were described in concept in the GSP; some of the actions described herein are new initiatives designed to make new water supplies available to the Subbasin that may be implemented by the GSAs to reduce pumping and partially mitigate the degree to which the management actions would be needed.

As described in the GSP (M&A, 2020), the need for projects and management actions is based on emerging Subbasin conditions, including the following:

- Groundwater levels are declining in some parts of the Subbasin, indicating that the amount of groundwater pumping is more than the natural recharge.
- The calculated water budget of the Paso Robles Formation aquifer indicates that the amount of groundwater in storage is in decline and will continue to decline if there is no net decrease in groundwater extractions.

To mitigate declines in groundwater levels in some parts of the Subbasin, achieve the Subbasin sustainability goal by 2040, and avoid undesirable results as required by SMGA regulations, new water supplies must be imported into the Subbasin [i.e., project(s)] and groundwater pumping must be reduced through management action(s).

In addition to project and management actions that address chronic declines in groundwater levels and depletion of groundwater in storage, this section also provides a brief discussion of land subsidence, potential depletion of interconnected surface waters, and groundwater quality trends that occurred during WY 2023.

The projects and management actions described in this section are all intended to help achieve groundwater sustainability in the Subbasin and avoid undesirable results.

8.2 Implementation Approach

As described in the GSP, the volume of annual groundwater pumping in the Subbasin is almost always greater than the estimated sustainable yield²¹ (WY 2023 being the exception) and, as a result, groundwater levels are persistently declining in some parts of the Subbasin. In response, the GSAs have initiated several projects and management actions designed to address the impacts of the decline in groundwater levels and reductions of groundwater in storage. It is anticipated that additional new projects and management actions, some of which are described herein, will be implemented in the future to continue progress towards avoiding or mitigating undesirable results.

²¹ The GSP states that the future estimated long-term sustainable yield of the Subbasin under reasonable climate change assumptions is 61,100 AFY (M&A, 2020).

Some of the projects and management actions described in this section are Subbasin-wide initiatives and some are area-specific. Generally, the basin-wide management actions apply to all areas of the Subbasin. Area-specific projects have been designed to aid in mitigating persistent water level declines in certain parts of the Subbasin.

8.3 Basin-Wide Management Actions and Projects

8.3.1 Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program – Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Round 1

In February 2022, the County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director submitted an application for DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program – Implementation Round 1 grant funding on behalf of the PBCC. The application was for \$10 million, of which \$7.6 million was awarded by DWR in July 2022.

In 2023, SGM Grant Program implementation included general grant oversight and management, ensuring invoicing, reporting, and deliverables were turned in on time and in final format. Work during 2023 also included identifying and retaining consultants who will provide ongoing administrative support and legal services during the grant term.

8.3.2 Paso Basin Land Use Ordinance

On February 7, 2023, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 3484, amending Title 8 and Title 22 of the San Luis Obispo County Code, the Health and Sanitation Ordinance and the Land Use Ordinance, rescinding Ordinance No. 3483²² and re-enacting and extending the previously adopted agricultural offset requirements ordinance for new or expanded irrigated crop production using water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin through January 1, 2028. This action effectively extends the existing Water Neutral New Development (WNND) amendments to Title 22.²³ A copy of Ordinance No. 3484 is included in Appendix H.

8.3.3 Synoptic Streamflow Survey

Following the wet winter of 2022/2023 Shandon-San Juan Water District (SSJWD) retained the services of a consultant to perform a synoptic streamflow survey on several tributary streams to the Salinas River in the Subbasin. The opportunity to collect data of this nature presents itself infrequently in the Subbasin, where flashy, short-lived ephemeral stream flows are the norm. The survey included measurements of stream flow and stream depth at regularly spaced intervals collected along 19 transects located on Huer Huero Creek, Shell Creek, San Juan Creek, and the Estrella River. Discharge in cubic feet per second was calculated for each transect using the mean section equation. The results of this survey have identified gaining and losing reaches and greatly enhanced the understanding of surface water-groundwater interactions within the

²² Ordinance 3483, passed in November 2022, among other things allowed a 25 AFY exemption per site for new or expanded irrigated crop production in the Paso Basin. This was rescinded with the passing of Ordinance 3484 in February 2023.

²³ In October 2015, the County Board of Supervisors adopted the WNND amendments to the County Land Use Ordinance (Title 22) and Building and Construction Ordinance (Title 19). The amendments require a 1:1 water offset for new non-agricultural development and new or expanded irrigated commercial crop production while providing a 5 AFY exemption for irrigated properties outside of an “area of severe decline” defined based on changes in groundwater elevation measurements from spring 1997 to spring 2013. The action to amend the ordinances was taken in response to declining groundwater levels to minimize further depletion of the groundwater resource. The 1:1 water offset requirement was originally intended to be a stopgap measure to avoid further depletion of the groundwater basin until SGMA implementation and included a termination clause to expire upon the effective date of a final and adopted GSP. On November 5, 2019, the County Board of Supervisors extended the termination date of the WNND ordinances to January 1, 2022 and removed “off-site” agricultural water offsets.

Subbasin. This synoptic streamflow survey dataset will be used to improve the GSP groundwater model and more highly constrain predictive surface water-groundwater interaction simulations. The results from the synoptic streamflow survey is included in Appendix I.

8.3.4 Supplemental Environmental Project Stream Gage Data

The City of Paso Robles GSA installed three radar-based stream flow gage stations (using SEP funds) during WY 2021. These stations are bridge-mounted at the following locations:

- Geneseo Road at Huer Huero Creek,
- River Grove Drive at Estrella Creek, and
- North River Road at Salinas River

These stations have been collecting continuous data since their installation in WY 2021. The dataloggers were downloaded during preparation of this WY 2023 Annual Report. Graphs depicting time-series stage data for each station are included in Appendix I.

8.3.5 Expansion of Monitoring Well Network

As described in the GSP, SGMA regulations require a sufficient density of monitoring wells to characterize the groundwater elevation in each principal aquifer. The GSP concluded that a significant data gap existed in the number of monitoring wells in both the Alluvial Aquifer and Paso Robles Formation Aquifer within the Subbasin. The City of Paso Robles GSA project (using SEP funds) has partially addressed this data gap by drilling new monitoring wells, as described in the WY 2021 Annual Report (GSI, 2022).

The 22 wells in the Paso Robles Formation Aquifer monitoring network are insufficient to develop representative and sufficiently detailed groundwater contour maps. The lack of publicly available data for the aquifer is identified as a data gap that must be addressed in GSP implementation. This section describes ongoing and new projects and initiatives undertaken by SSJGSA, EPCWD, and the Groundwater Sustainability Director to expand the collection of water level data in the Subbasin.

8.3.5.1 SSJGSA Program to Expand the Monitoring Well Network

The SSJGSA initiated a program in WY 2020 to enlist many well owners that are members of the SSJWD to join a pilot study to measure water levels in wells throughout the District. Beginning in March 2021 water levels have been measured approximately monthly in nearly 70 wells. This initial effort is being undertaken to gain a better understanding of the time of year of the seasonal high and low water levels and to identify key representative wells in each area throughout the District. Data collection is continuing into WY 2024.

As this groundwater elevation dataset grows the data are being analyzed with the intent to reduce the number of measuring points as key wells are identified. The eventual goal of the program is to develop a network of 20 to 30 new wells to incorporate into the expanded RMS groundwater level monitoring network (see below). The water level data from this expanded monitoring network has been incorporated into the groundwater elevation and change in groundwater in storage analyses for WY 2023. These data points infilled several prior data gaps and have had the effect of substantially reducing the uncertainty in the WY 2023 analyses.

8.3.5.2 EPCWD Program to Expand the Monitoring Well Network

The EPCWD initiated a program in WY 2020 similar to the SSJGSA program. Beginning in April 2021 water levels have been measured quarterly in approximately 30 wells throughout the EPCWD membership area.

Data collection is continuing into WY 2023. Like the SSJGSA program, the eventual goal of the EPCWD initiative is to develop a network of 20 to 30 new wells to incorporate into the expanded RMS groundwater level monitoring network (see below). The water level data from this expanded monitoring network has been incorporated into the groundwater elevation and change in groundwater in storage analyses for WY 2023. These data points infilled several prior data gaps and have had the effect of substantially reducing the uncertainty in the WY 2023 analyses.

8.3.5.3 Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Level Monitoring Network Expansion and Refinement and Investigation of the El Pomar Junction Area

An Expanded Monitoring Network Technical Advisory Committee (Expanded Monitoring Network TAC) was formed by the PBCC in 2023 to spearhead the effort of expanding and refining the existing RMS groundwater level monitoring network. The purpose of expanding the monitoring network is to identify and address potential groundwater level impacts to domestic users, refine the hydrogeologic conceptual model, improve the GSP groundwater model which will allow the GSAs to improve tracking progress towards achieving sustainability, and to address several of the DWR recommended corrective actions presented in their June 20, 2023 GSP determination letter (see Section 8.5.1). The Expanded Monitoring Network TAC met on the following dates in WY 2023 to develop a recommended expanded monitoring network for the Paso Basin:

- July 13, 2023,
- August 30, 2023, and
- September 19, 2023

Work that was completed by the Expanded Monitoring Network TAC during WY 2023 includes:

- Selection of consultant to develop an expanded monitoring network recommendation based on previously developed scope of work.
- Review and feedback on the draft expanded monitoring network recommendation developed by consultant.
- Prioritization of a list of shallow alluvial wells to be constructed.
- Discussion of the strategy for installation of continuous monitoring equipment in select wells.
- Review and confirmation of the final draft expanded monitoring network recommendation for PBCC consideration.

The Expanded Monitoring Network TAC continued working into October 2023 (WY 2024), culminating in adoption of the Recommended Expanded Groundwater Level Monitoring Network for the Paso Basin by the PBCC at the October 25, 2023, board meeting. The adopted document details the recommendation to expand the existing 23-well RMS groundwater level monitoring network to 151 wells in the Subbasin. The work product of the Expanded Monitoring Network TAC is a recommended list of existing and new wells which constitutes a 'wish list'²⁴ for the Expanded Groundwater Level Monitoring Network in the Subbasin. Also included in the work product are selections of up to two backup wells for each well in the 'wish list' to resort to if the preferred well is not available.

²⁴ A majority of the wells in the recommended list are privately owned. A next step will be to approach the well owners and present the opportunity to have their well(s) included in the expanded monitoring network. It is expected that some portion of the well owners will opt out.

To implement this recommendation the GSAs will need to determine monitoring network responsibilities and cost share (e.g. each GSA, or coordinated GSA effort), identify current well owners, develop an access and data sharing agreement, drill new wells, contact existing well owners to determine participation, ensure the well is adequate for monitoring, determine what wells can be instrumented with a continuous monitoring device, develop monitoring protocols, and develop a data management system to host the data. This work will continue into 2024.

In parallel, and in coordination with the Expanded Monitoring Network TAC, the DWR Technical Support Services (TSS) was engaged by the GSAs to install three sets of paired monitoring wells in the Subbasin. Initial well siting for each of the TSS well locations was completed in WY 2023.

El Pomar Junction Area

In 2022 the Groundwater Sustainability Director retained the services of a consultant to prepare a draft work plan for expansion and refinement of the Subbasin groundwater level monitoring network and to investigate the hydrogeology in the El Pomar Junction area in response to the chronic lowering of groundwater elevation undesirable result recorded in RMS well 27S/13E-28F01 (see Section 3.3.1). The chronic lowering of groundwater elevation undesirable result identified in RMS well 27S/13E-28F01 in the WY 2021, WY 2022, and this year's Annual Reports and the chronic lowering of groundwater elevation undesirable result identified in RMS well 27S/13E-30J01 in this year's Annual Report requires an investigation to determine if this undesirable result is a localized or basin-wide issue. The draft work plan details a hydrogeologic investigation of the El Pomar Junction area to satisfy this requirement and to generally improve upon the hydrogeologic understanding of the area. Details from this investigation shall be incorporated into the expansion and refinement of the groundwater monitoring network.

Based on preliminary review of well completion reports (WCRs) provided by San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services, lithologic evidence was discovered indicating that several wells located in the El Pomar Junction area, including active irrigation wells, are completed below the Paso Robles Formation either partially or completely within the Santa Margarita Formation, a non-Basin aquifer. Among these wells are three of the existing RMS wells (27S/12E-13N01, 27S/13E-30J01, and 27S/13E-30N01), which each appear to be completed entirely within the Santa Margarita Formation. The investigation of the El Pomar Junction area continued during WY 2023 as part of the Expanded Monitoring Network TAC efforts. It is anticipated that further review of El Pomar Junction area WCRs and any other discoverable hydrogeologic information shall be undertaken during WY 2024.

8.3.6 Multibenefit Irrigated Land Repurposing Program

A Multibenefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program TAC (MILR Program TAC) was formed by the PBCC in 2023. The combined impacts to groundwater resources from the multi-year drought and lack of available and reliable supplemental surface water supplies may increase the likelihood of requiring some irrigated agriculture in the Subbasin to temporarily come out of production. Statewide, extreme recent drought conditions have created momentum for new voluntary incentivized programs for growers facing the difficult decision of taking land out of production and to support some amount of continued farming even if in a smaller irrigated footprint. Typically called repurposing, these programs can provide a strategically designed way to approach following decisions and potentially find new uses for areas taken out of production. As one of the high priority management actions funded by the SGM Grant Program – Implementation Round 1 (see Section 8.3.1) the MILR Program is expected to be a critical component in achieving long-term groundwater sustainability in the Subbasin.

The MILR Program TAC met on the following dates to develop the framework for the MILR Program:

- July 11, 2023
- September 19, 2023

Work completed by the MILR Program TAC in WY 2023 includes:

- Review and comment on conceptual pricing model.
- Development and presentation of a summary of lessons learned from successfully awarded agencies for the Department of Conservation Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program Regional Block Grant Solicitation.
- Development and presentation of an overview of Pajaro Valley Groundwater Management Agency Strategies regarding land repurposing.
- Continued discussions on program funding requirements and recommendation to the PBCC to develop a rate study.
- Development of a draft MILR project categories and discussion of potential demonstration projects.

8.4 Area-Specific Projects

8.4.1 City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Program

In 2016, the City of Paso Robles completed a major upgrade of its Wastewater Treatment Plant to remove all harmful pollutants efficiently and effectively from the wastewater. The City's master plan is to produce tertiary-quality recycled water and distribute it to various locations within the City as well as east Paso Robles, where it may be used for irrigation of city parks, golf courses, and vineyards. The City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Program will reduce the need to pump groundwater from the Subbasin and will further improve the sustainability of the City's water supply. In 2019, the City completed an upgrade to full tertiary treatment and began producing high-quality recycled water. Design and environmental permitting of the recycled water distribution system are complete.

In 2022, the City received \$3.5 million in SGM Grant Program – Implementation Round 1 grant funding, via the County of San Luis Obispo (see Section 8.3.1), for construction of a difficult 1,900 lineal foot segment of the distribution system under the Salinas River. The City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Program will have the capacity to use up to 2,200 AFY of tertiary quality recycled water for in-lieu recharge inside the City of Paso Robles and in the central portion of the Subbasin (see Section 8.4.3). Water that is not used for recycled water purposes may be discharged to surface infiltration facilities, such as Huer Huero Creek, with the possibility for additional recharge benefits.

The primary benefit from the City's Recycled Water Program is higher groundwater elevations in the central portion of the Subbasin due to in lieu recharge from the direct use of the recycled water and potential surface recharge opportunities.

Work completed on the City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Program in WY 2023 includes:

- Continued review of technical submittals and procuring materials;
- Completed environmental training for construction personnel;
- Continued regular construction progress meetings; and
- Contractor excavated entrance and exit pits for horizontal directional drilling operation; dewatered groundwater from entrance pit; installed 48-inch-diameter casings on both sides of river; bored under Salinas River; reamed out borehole to a diameter of 40 inches; fused together a 700-foot-long string of

26-inch-diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe; pressure tested the pipe string; pulled the pipe string in under the river; and then pressure-tested the installed pipeline again. Contractor then turned their attention to installation of 24-inch-diameter ductile iron pipe via open cut construction in North River Road. This work required hard closure of North River Road for 4 weeks.

8.4.2 San Miguel Community Services District Recycled Water Project

The San Miguel CSD Recycled Water Project will upgrade the CSD wastewater treatment plant to meet California Code of Regulations Title 22 criteria for disinfected tertiary recycled water for irrigation use by vineyards. Potential customers include a group of agricultural irrigators on the east side of the Salinas River, and a group of agricultural customers northwest of the wastewater treatment plant. The project could provide between 200 AFY and 450 AFY of additional water supplies. The primary benefit from the CSD's Recycled Water project is higher groundwater elevations in the vicinity of the community of San Miguel due to in lieu recharge from the direct use of the recycled water.

Work completed on the San Miguel CSD Recycled Water Project in WY 2023 includes:

- Continued meetings with nearby wineries and vineyards regarding interest in purchasing recycled water and recycled water pipeline easement needs.
- Continued outreach to the Union Pacific Railroad for a crossing easement and potential purchase of adjacent property.
- Survey pipeline alignment for design.
- Prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Project description and begin developing the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration.

8.4.3 Blended Water Project

Private entities and individuals are working actively with the City of Paso Robles and numerous agricultural irrigators to develop a project that can bring recycled water to the central portion of the Subbasin. As described above, the City estimates that as much as 2,200 AFY of recycled water will be available, and the volume will likely increase in the future as the City grows. The wastewater treatment plant is designed to process and deliver up to 4,000 AFY.

The goal of the Blended Water Project is to design and construct a pipeline system to connect to the City's Recycled Water Program and convey recycled water into the agricultural areas east of the City. Although there are many ways to use the Recycled Water Program water directly, certain challenges exist to make the water quality of the recycled water attractive to some agricultural users. Blending the recycled water with surplus NWP water, when available, may mitigate these challenges. The primary benefit from the Blended Water Project is higher groundwater elevations in the central portion of the Subbasin east of the City of Paso Robles due to reductions in groundwater pumping for irrigation and in-lieu recharge from the direct use of the blended water. Associated benefits may include improved groundwater quality from the use and recharge of high-quality irrigation water.

Key developments in 2023 include progress on the City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Program (see Section 8.4.1) and successful removal of the limitations on place of use for NWP water on irrigated agricultural lands within San Luis Obispo County—a constraint originally included in the existing water right held by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

The Blended Irrigation Water Supply Project TAC (Blended Water TAC) was formed by the PBCC in 2023. The Blended Water TAC met on July 13, 2023, to develop a scope of work for feasibility and preliminary

engineering study request for proposals (RFP) for the Blended Water Project. The Blended Water TAC issued an RFP for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Blended Water Supply Project Water Supply Feasibility and Engineering Study.

8.4.4 Diversion of Flood Flows to Recharge Groundwater

In 2023 two temporary flood flow diversion projects were completed under the authority of California State Executive Order N-4-23. Between the two projects carried out by J. Lohr Vineyards Inc. and Kylix Vineyards California LP there is estimated to have been up to 47 AF of diverted flood water recharged to underlying aquifers during March and April 2023. The flood diversion reports submitted to the State are included in Appendix J.

8.4.5 Expansion of Salinas Dam and Ownership Transfer

One of the conceptual projects discussed in the GSP (Section 9.5.2.7 of the GSP) is expansion of the Salinas Dam. The dam is owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which jointly holds Santa Margarita Reservoir water rights permits with the City of San Luis Obispo (City of SLO). The USACE leases the dam to the SLOFCWCD, who oversees its operation and maintenance, including water delivery to the City of SLO.

The original dam design included the installation of spillway gates that would raise the reservoir elevation, however they were not installed due to seismic safety concerns. The storage capacity of Santa Margarita Reservoir could be expanded by installing the spillway gates, potentially increasing the maximum volume in the reservoir from 23,843 AF to 41,792 AF.

As described in the GSP, expanded reservoir storage might benefit the Subbasin by scheduling summer releases from reservoir storage to the Salinas River, which would benefit the Subbasin by increasing streamflow recharge through augmented flows in the Salinas River. Another way the project might indirectly benefit the Subbasin is if the City of SLO could increase their Santa Margarita Reservoir deliveries, thereby freeing up a portion of their NWP water allocation for purchase by the GSAs.

In 2018, the USACE initiated a Disposition Study to evaluate options to dispose of the Salinas Dam, including transferring ownership to a local agency. An option under investigation is to transfer the dam to a local agency such as the SLOFCWCD, thus the USACE has requested that the County Board of Supervisors, acting in their role as the SLOFCWCD, submit a letter expressing interest in potentially moving forward with the ownership transfer process. Such an ownership transfer would help facilitate the dam expansion, should it prove to be a cost-effective and worthwhile project.

Some of the known issues with transferring ownership of the dam include:

- The USACE has indicated that the Salinas Dam has some deficiencies but is considered low risk. As such, the USACE has indicated that the dam would need to be transferred “as-is”, with the USACE only willing to consider providing minimal funding to support retrofit.
- The State, as the DWR Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), has indicated that seismic rehabilitation of Salinas Dam would be required. Any retrofit or structural improvements, including expanding the dam’s capacity, will require coordination with and approval by the DSOD following acquisition of the dam by the SLOFCWCD.
- Because the USACE has indicated they are unlikely to install the gates, ownership of the dam would need to be transferred from the federal government to a local agency to pursue the opportunity. This transfer would result in the Salinas Dam oversight responsibilities transferring from federal to state

jurisdiction and require the dam retrofit and expansion to meet any additional requirements from the State.

In WY 2023 the County Groundwater Sustainability Director made a request to DWR to reappropriate resources from the Expansion of Salinas Dam and Ownership Transfer effort to the ongoing work with the MILR Program rate study.

8.5 Summary of Progress towards Meeting Subbasin Sustainability

Since the publication of the GSP in 2020 there has been a mix of wet years, average years, and drought. The Subbasin in WY 2023 has returned to the same level of cumulative change in groundwater in storage estimated in the GSP. Historical groundwater pumping in excess of the sustainable yield has created challenging conditions for sustainable management. Of particular concern are communities and rural residential areas that rely solely on groundwater for their water supply³ (see Figure 10). During WY 2023, several dry wells were replaced, a direct result of declining water levels. The distribution of these dry well replacements that occurred during WY 2023 is shown on Figure 10.

Actions are underway to collect data, improve the monitoring and data collection networks, and coordinate with affected agencies and entities throughout the Subbasin to develop solutions that address the shared mutual interest in the Subbasin's overall sustainability goal.

8.5.1 DWR Acceptance of Revised GSP

On January 21, 2022, DWR released an official 'incomplete' determination for the Paso Robles Subbasin GSP. The Paso Robles Subbasin GSAs retained a consultant to address the deficiencies identified in the GSP and resubmitted the revised GSP to DWR before the July 20, 2022, deadline. On June 20, 2023 DWR released a determination letter approving the revised GSP. Included with the June 20, 2023, determination letter is a Statement of Findings and Staff Report. Several recommended corrective actions are presented in the Staff Report that should be considered by the GSAs for the first periodic evaluation of the GSP. The June 20, 2023, determination letter with attachments is included in Appendix K.

8.5.2 Subsidence

Land subsidence is the lowering of the land surface. As described in the GSP, several human-induced and natural causes of subsidence exist, but the only process applicable to SGMA are those due to permanently lowered ground surface elevations caused by groundwater pumping (M&A, 2020). Historical subsidence can be estimated using InSAR data provided by DWR. InSAR measures ground elevation using microwave satellite imagery data. The GSP documents minor subsidence in the Subbasin using data provided by DWR depicting the difference in InSAR measured ground surface elevations between June 2015 and June 2018. These data show that subsidence of up to 0.025 feet may have occurred during this 3-year period in a few small, isolated areas of the Subbasin (M&A, 2020). The GSP established minimum thresholds for InSAR measured land subsidence as "no more than 0.1 foot in any single year and a cumulative 0.5 foot in any five-year period", as measured using InSAR between June of one year and June of the following year (M&A, 2020).

Updated InSAR data has been provided by DWR through October 2023. As discussed in the GSP, to minimize the influence of elastic subsidence, changes in ground level should be measured annually from June of one year to June of the following year (M&A, 2020). For this WY 2023 Annual Report, the single-year land subsidence was measured using InSAR from June 2022 through June 2023 and the 5-year land subsidence land subsidence was measured from June 2018 through June 2023. According to Towill, Inc. (2023) there is a potential error of +/- 18 millimeters, or 0.059 feet associated with the InSAR measurement and reporting

methods. Therefore, an InSAR measured land surface change of less than 0.059 feet is within the noise of the data and is equivalent to no evidence of subsidence. Considering this range of potential error, examination of the single-year change InSAR data from June 2022 to June 2023 show that zero land subsidence has occurred (see Figure 16). Considering the same potential error for the 5-year cumulative change InSAR data from June 2018 to June 2023 it is apparent that as much as 0.14 feet of subsidence has occurred during this period (see Figure 17). Although minor land subsidence is documented during the 5-year period of June 2018 to June 2023, neither of these results indicate an undesirable result as specified by the land subsidence minimum thresholds. The GSAs will continue to monitor and report annual subsidence as more data become available.

8.5.3 Interconnected Surface Water

Ephemeral surface water flows in the Subbasin make it difficult to assess the interconnectivity of surface water and groundwater and to quantify the degree to which surface water depletion has occurred. The revised GSP submitted to DWR in July 2022 identifies potential surface water/alluvial groundwater connection along certain sections of the Salinas River, along the middle reach of the Estrella River (from Shedd Canyon to Martingale Circle) and along San Juan Creek upstream of Spring Creek (Paso Robles Subbasin GSAs, 2022). There is no evidence that the Salinas River surface water flows are connected to the underlying Paso Robles Formation Aquifer (Paso Robles Subbasin GSAs, 2022). The potential connection between the surface water system along the middle reach of the Estrella River (from Shedd Canyon to Martingale Circle) and along San Juan Creek upstream of Spring Creek, and the underlying Paso Robles Formation Aquifer is unknown but sufficient evidence exists that there could potentially be a connection, and therefore further investigation in these areas is recommended (Paso Robles Subbasin GSAs, 2022). At this time, there are insufficient data available to adequately assess the interconnectivity of surface water and groundwater and the potential depletion of interconnected surface water. Although there is at present only a single Alluvial Aquifer RMS well in the Subbasin, seven existing alluvial wells are monitored including three wells along the Salinas River, one well next to the Estrella River near Jardine Road and one well next to San Juan Creek about 7 miles above Shandon (Paso Robles Subbasin GSAs, 2022). Additional Alluvial Aquifer wells will need to be established in the monitoring network before groundwater/surface water interaction can be more robustly analyzed. The Recommended Expanded Groundwater Level Monitoring Network for the Paso Basin produced by the Expanded Monitoring Network TAC (see Section 8.3.5) includes a plan to install new alluvial monitoring wells and address these data gaps.

8.5.4 Groundwater Quality

Although groundwater quality is not a primary focus of SGMA, actions or projects undertaken by GSAs to achieve sustainability cannot degrade water quality to the extent that they would cause undesirable results. As stated in the GSP, groundwater quality in the Subbasin is generally suitable for both drinking water and agricultural purposes (M&A, 2020). Eight COCs were identified and discussed in the GSP that have the potential to be impacted by groundwater management activities. These COCs identified in the GSP are salinity (as indicated by electrical conductivity), TDS, sodium, chloride, nitrate, sulfate, boron, and gross alpha. For this WY 2023 Annual Report, trends of concentrations of these eight COCs were analyzed through WY 2023 using data from the GeoTracker Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) database (GAMA, 2024). All COCs reviewed show a steady concentration trend since 2016.

Overall, there are no significant changes to groundwater quality since 2016, as documented in the GSP, preceding annual reports, and this WY 2023 Annual Report. Implementation of sustainability projects and/or management actions, as presented in the GSP, in this WY 2023 Annual Report, or in future reports or GSP updates, are not anticipated to result in degraded groundwater quality in the Subbasin. Any potential changes in groundwater quality will be documented in future annual reports and GSP updates.

8.5.5 Summary of Changes in Basin Conditions

Groundwater elevations observed in the Subbasin during WY 2023 are generally higher than the previous year across a majority of the Subbasin, due to above-average rainfall conditions during the winter of 2022/2023. Although groundwater elevations in a few of the Paso Robles Formation Aquifer RMS wells are stable to slightly increasing during the past few years, groundwater elevations in several of the RMS wells are continuing to trend downward. In most years (WY 2023 being the exception) groundwater pumping continues to exceed the estimated future sustainable yield and the projects and management actions described in the GSP and in this WY 2023 Annual Report will be necessary to bring the Subbasin into sustainability.

8.5.6 Summary of Impacts of Projects and Management Actions

Additional time will be necessary to judge the effectiveness and quantitative impacts of the projects and management actions either now underway or in the planning and implementation stage. However, it is clear that the actions in place and as described in this WY 2023 Annual Report are a good start towards reaching the sustainability goals laid out in the GSP. It is too soon to judge the observed changes in basin conditions against the interim goals outlined in the GSP, but the anticipated effects of the projects and management actions now underway are expected to significantly affect the ability of the Subbasin to reach the necessary sustainability goals.

PASO BASIN COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Draft FY 2024-2025 Expenses Budget

Budget Components	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
Grant Funded Cost Components				
Grant Funded				
1 ET Ag Water Usage Program		\$ 120,000		
2 Cost of Service Rate Study		\$ 150,000		
3 Address High Priority GSP Data Gaps (Expanded Monitoring Network)		\$ 1,400,000		
4 MILR Program Framework		\$ 380,000		
5 Well Verification/Registration Program		\$ 100,000		
6 Drinking Well Impact Mitigation Program Development		\$ 200,000		
7 Blended Irrigation Water Supply Program		\$ 300,000		
8 SWP Feasibility Project		\$ 200,000		
9 City of Paso Robles Recycled Water Distribution System - Salinas River Segment	\$ 3,500,000			
10 San Miguel CSD Recycled Water Supply Project		\$ 1,000,000		
Grant Funded Total	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,850,000		

Budget Components	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
PBCC Funded Cost Components				
SGMA-Required				
11 Annual Report WY 2024	\$ 95,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 121,000
12 GSP Fifth Year Evaluation		\$ 300,000		
13 ET Ag Water Usage Program			\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
14 Ongoing Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance		\$ 75,000	\$ 82,500	\$ 90,750
GSP Initiatives				
15 Outreach Program (Continued efforts including new website)		\$ 75,000	\$ 82,500	\$ 90,750
Administrative				
16 Develop Governance Structure (e.g. JPA, etc.)		\$ 50,000		\$ -
17 Executive Director and Support Staff			\$ 180,000	\$ 200,000
18 Legal Counsel			\$ 82,500	\$ 90,750
19 PBCC Administrative Costs (Insurance, Audit, Accounting, etc.)			\$ 82,500	\$ 90,750
20 Grant Development (2 grants)			\$ 82,500	\$ 90,750
21 Technical Consultant(s) (as necessary)			\$ 110,000	\$ 121,000
TOTAL	\$ 95,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 932,500	\$ 1,015,750

	GSA Cost Share	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
a	County of San Luis Obispo GSA	\$ 30,685	\$ 193,800	\$ 301,198	\$ 328,087
b	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA	\$ 27,835	\$ 175,800	\$ 273,223	\$ 297,615
c	Shandon San Juan Water District GSA	\$ 19,190	\$ 121,200	\$ 188,365	\$ 205,182
d	City of Paso Robles GSA	\$ 14,440	\$ 91,200	\$ 141,740	\$ 154,394
e	San Miguel Community Services District GSA	\$ 2,850	\$ 18,000	\$ 27,975	\$ 30,473

Proposal for Outreach and Communications Support

ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON/SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICTS

May 17, 2024

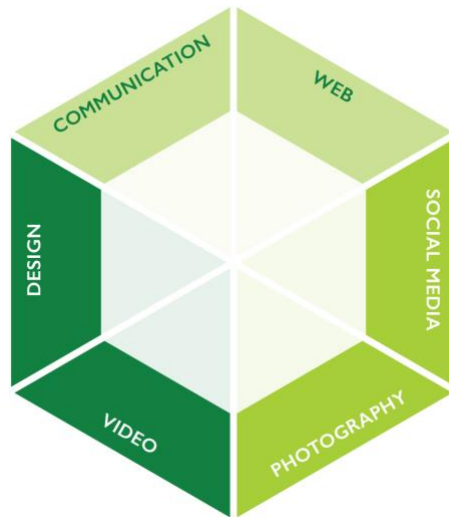
By: Ryder Todd Smith, Co-Founder and President
Sydni Overly, Senior Business Analyst
Peter Johnson, Business Analyst





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COVER LETTER

Thank you for this opportunity to partner with the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston and the Shandon-San Juan Water Districts on outreach and communications services. This proposal outlines Tripepi Smith’s experience and services available for the Districts to leverage.

Tripepi Smith is a team of nearly 60 communications experts—robust enough to offer experienced and effective professionals for the job, yet small enough to be nimble and responsive. We can provide a spectrum of skills that allows us to match the appropriate resource to the task at hand, letting us execute faster and reduce engagement costs. These resources vary by both years of experience and core hard skills (graphic design versus videography versus writing versus social media, for example). The result: we have an ability to tell a complete story across mediums, all within our one team.

Tripepi Smith is a force multiplier for the communication operations in local governments across California. From the City of Napa to the City of Grover Beach to the Santa Margarita Water District, Tripepi Smith is actively working with over 200 local governments and public agencies. No other communications firm has the public agency client depth and diversity that Tripepi Smith offers. We leverage this experience to the benefit of each client, applying experiences and lessons learned throughout the course of an engagement.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with the District teams and your communities.

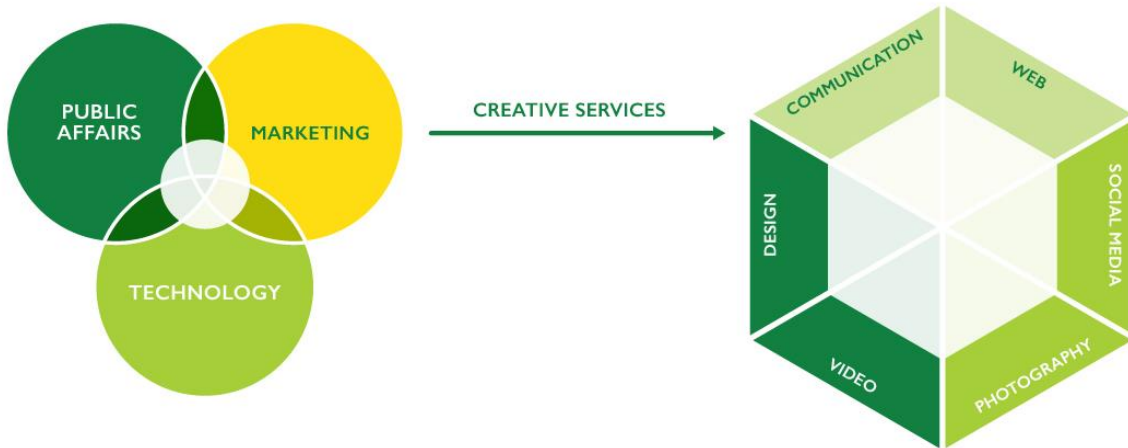
Regards,

Ryder Todd Smith, Co-Founder & President
 Tripepi Smith
 PO Box 52152, Irvine, CA 92619
 ryder@tripepismith.com
 (626) 536-2173



COMPANY OVERVIEW

Tripepi Smith excels at public affairs. We work in a complex environment where successful communications go hand-in-hand with marketing and technical expertise. As a full-service public affairs and creative services firm, Tripepi Smith delivers strategy, outreach and design tailored for local government, public agencies, nonprofits and private companies—each strongly represented in our client list.



At Tripepi Smith, experienced Directors and Analysts drive strategy and implement messaging. Full-time creative professionals generate compelling branding, websites, design, social media, photography and video. The collaboration between Creative Services and Analysts keeps communications engaging and on-message, and a diversity of skillsets and expertise allows Tripepi Smith to offer clients exactly the level of service they need.

Legal Structure and Financial Matters

Tripepi Smith is a California S Corporation. Ownership is equally split between Co-Founders Nicole D. Smith and Ryder Todd Smith.

Tripepi Smith has been incorporated since 2002 and has generated a profit every year it has been in operation. We have never had a legal claim filed against us and have never failed to fulfill a contract commitment.

Implementing Strategy and Engaging Audiences

Tripepi Smith recognizes the important interplay of public affairs and design. It's about presenting ideas that advance communities and public institutions. An important corollary to this is providing the creative services that can build materials to engage audiences and make ideas resonate. Tripepi Smith's multi-faceted design team enables us to reach these goals and lead effective creative strategy.



Strategic

Tripepi Smith is a provider of technology, communications and public affairs services. We leverage our skills and experiences in each of these areas to deliver efficient, technologically driven communication solutions that reflect our deep understanding of local government. Our team has a strong record of working with public agencies, joint powers authorities and not-for-profit organizations throughout California to better engage and connect with their stakeholders and community.

“...solutions that reflect our deep understanding of local government.”

Creative

Tripepi Smith’s creative professionals have worked with public and private clients on imagery, colors and graphic design in an array of projects. Our firm offers creative services that address not only traditional media such as print, websites, logo design and advertising but also non-traditional marketing services around email campaigns, social media, blogging, SEO, video production and more. This integrated approach to content development makes the process more efficient and more effective for clients.

Content x Distribution = IMPACT

Tripepi Smith was born in the digital era and brings significant technical skills to the table. Members of our team carry technical certifications in Hootsuite Social Media Marketing, Facebook Blueprint, Google Advertising, Google Analytics and Twitter Flight School, among others. We take digital platforms seriously and recognize how critical it is to not only develop great visuals and messaging, but to ensure the audiences we want to reach actually see that content. Without content distribution, there is no impact.





Our Services

Strategy, Marketing, Communications

- Strategic development, research, surveys, messaging
- Social media management
- Web and social media strategy, optimization (SEO), metrics
- Web hosting and support
- Email campaigns
- Relations (media, stakeholders, public, government)
- Support and training for events, presentations and virtual gatherings
- Google AdWords, LinkedIn and Facebook advertising

Creative Services

- Full-service graphic design for digital, print and outdoor
- Brand and logo development
- Content generation, writing and editorial
- Output services (digital distribution, print management, mail management)
- Photography, illustration and information graphics
- Video and animation
- Web design and implementation

Tripepi Smith Testimonial

“

It has been astounding seeing Tripepi Smith quickly address community member questions about our Levee Improvements Project.

The team helped the City directly engage with residents and create platforms that will sustain our outreach efforts through this long and complex construction project.

”

Peter Pirnejad

City Manager,
City of Foster City





Client Roster

Tripepi Smith has been selected to work with over 200 local government agencies to help with their communications. We can provide you with contacts at any of these clients, including from the sample below.

California City Management Foundation	City of Laguna Niguel	City of South Gate
City of Aliso Viejo	City of Lancaster	City of Sunnyvale
City of American Canyon	City of Livermore	City of Tracy
City of Azusa	City of Lomita	City of Vallejo
City of Bellflower	City of Lynwood	City of Vista
City of Berkeley	City of Manhattan Beach	(City of) Yuba City
City of Burlingame	City of Manteca	Town of Windsor
City of Claremont	City of Menlo Park	County of Merced
City of Coronado	City of Millbrae	County of Fresno
(City of) Culver City	City of Morgan Hill	County of Sonoma
City of Cupertino	City of Mountain View	County of Santa Barbara
(City of) Daly City	City of Murrieta	County of Kings
City of Danville	City of Napa	California Contract Cities Association
City of Duarte	City of Orange	California Joint Powers Insurance Authority
City of Dublin	City of Orinda	Citrus Heights Water District
City of El Cerrito	City of Palm Desert	Costa Mesa Sanitary District
City of Fountain Valley	City of Palmdale	El Toro Water District
City of Foster City	City of Paramount	Independent Cities Association
City of Fullerton	City of Pinole	Independent Cities Finance Authority
City of Gilroy	City of Pismo Beach	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
City of Grover Beach	City of Placentia	Institute for Local Government
City of Hawaiian Gardens	City of Pleasanton	League of California Cities
City of Hercules	City of Pomona	Municipal Management Association of Northern California
City of Huntington Beach	City of Rancho Palos Verdes	Municipal Management Association of Southern California
City of Indian Wells	City of Rancho Mirage	Orange County City Manager Association
City of Industry	City of Riverbank	Orange County Sanitation District
City of Irvine	City of Rolling Hills Estates	Palmdale Water District
City of La Cañada Flintridge	City of San Leandro	Rowland Water District
City of La Palma	City of Santa Ana	San Gabriel Valley City Managers' Association
City of La Puente	City of Santa Clarita	
City of La Verne	City of Santa Cruz	
City of Lake Forest	City of Santa Paula	
City of Laguna Hills	City of Saratoga	
	City of Stanton	

Local Government Affiliation and Support

Tripepi Smith is firmly committed to the local government world and actively supports the local government association and professional staff who make cities work. Our sponsorship and affiliation with professional industry groups includes:

- California City Management Foundation
- California Association of Public Information Officials



- League of California Cities
- California Contract Cities Association
- Independent Cities Association
- Orange County City Manager Association
- Cal-ICMA
- San Gabriel Valley City Managers' Association
- Municipal Management Association of Northern California
- Municipal Management Association of Southern California
- Institute for Local Government
- University of Southern California City/County Management Fellowship
- California Special District Association

Work Samples

We encourage you to see all the work we have done for clients through our online portfolio at <https://www.tripepismith.com/work>




PROJECT TEAM

For the Districts’ communication support, **Peter Johnson**, Business Analyst, will serve as the Districts’ project management lead, handling project coordination and logistics and overseeing content development. Senior Business Analyst **Sydni Overly** will serve as account manager, providing strategic oversight and overseeing contracts and invoicing. Junior Business Analyst **Avi Vemuri** will provide content development support. President **Ryder Todd Smith** will be available to make leadership presentations, facilitate community discussions and provide communication support as needed. While all team members will likely interface with the EPC and SSJ District teams, Peter will be the primary contact for day-to-day activities.

This core project team will have dedicated availability to aid the Districts’ engagement. This also parlays into dedicated time to support the Districts on immediate notice and under time constraints. Of course, Tripepi Smith is a collaborative firm with many skillsets available. Any Tripepi Smith staff member may be brought onto the Districts’ team to help with a project. Tripepi Smith may assign or swap resources as needed to address client-specific needs or to leverage certain expertise when needed, but only after Districts’ approval.

Team Details

(See Resumes showing full professional experience, education and degrees)

Team Member	Role Description
 <p>Ryder Todd Smith CEO</p> <p><i>Role: Advisor</i></p>	<p>Ryder has a mixed background in the worlds of government relations, technology and marketing. He served as the SVP of Operations and Chief Information Officer for a software-as-a-service startup in the financial services sector. Prior to that, he was the technology manager for a regional staffing firm. Ryder leads Tripepi Smith and is the ultimate project owner on all work handled by the firm. He is the creator of the City Internet Strategies Study, publisher of the Civic Business Journal, publisher of PublicCEO and a frequent speaker on the local government circuit. His insights have been published in Western City and PM magazines. He volunteers his time as vice chair of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government Board of Governors and previously served as a Planning Commission for the City of Tustin. Ryder graduated from Claremont McKenna College with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and a dual degree in Economics.</p>



Sydni Overly
Senior Business Analyst

Role: Account Manager

Sydni is a strong project manager with a background in public policy and local government. After studying Sociology at Boston University, she went on to receive her master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach. Sydni further developed her leadership skills at the City of Gardena, where she supported several municipal departments and gained extensive experience in intergovernmental relations, emergency management, community outreach and content creation. As a Senior Business Analyst for Tripepi Smith, Sydni manages a wide range of projects and provides strategic direction for staff to execute on client deliverables. In addition to her client work, Sydni is also the firm's Sprout Social expert and helps optimize social media management practices.

Sydni's client work includes: City of Grover Beach, City of La Verne, City of Pismo Beach, City of Rohnert Park, City of Santa Paula, City of San Luis Obispo, City of San Clemente and HSITAG.

Sydni is a certified Hootsuite Social Marketing Professional. She also earned her Sprout Social Platform Certification in 2021.



Peter Johnson
Business Analyst

Role: Project Manager

Peter brings nearly a decade of media experience to the Tripepi Smith team and expertise in writing, community relations, and local government policy. Prior to joining Tripepi Smith, he spent five years as the assistant editor of a San Luis Obispo County newspaper, honing his skills in communicating the ongoings of local government and politics to the public through his award-winning journalism. Peter possesses a diverse skillset which he deploys creatively with a strong drive to produce quality and impactful results for clients. He graduated from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. During his time in college, he worked with department chair James T. Hamilton on his 2016 book, Democracy's Detectives, which won the Harvard Kennedy School's Goldsmith Book Prize in 2017.

Peter is certified in Hootsuite Social Marketing.



Avi Vemuri

Junior Business Analyst

Role: Project Support

Avi Vemuri is a detail-oriented, analytical thinker with a background in data analytics, project management, and marketing. He graduated from Claremont Mckenna College with a degree in Economics, and a sequence in Computer Science. While at Claremont Mckenna, Avi gained experience as an IT Project Management Intern at Farmers Insurance and served as a Growth Marketing Manager for the food delivery startup EnvoyNow. These experiences helped drive a strong passion for marketing and project management. After graduating, Avi taught Computer Science and served as the Head Tennis Coach at The Hill School, an independent boarding school in Eastern Pennsylvania. This experience helped cultivate both his leadership and analytical skills.

Avi is certified in Hootsuite Social Media Marketing and Sprout Social.



Tripepi Smith Organizational Chart





PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

The Districts have requested a range of services and potential add on services. We have broken down the scope of the estimate into a retainer cost and time & materials elements that empower the Districts to “ramp up” or “ramp down” services according to budget and priorities.

Retainer (Ongoing) Services

Tripepi Smith proposes the following options for a monthly General Communications Retainer, which includes one-time setup costs and ongoing strategy calls and monthly deliverables.

Monthly Retainer – Option 1

Tripepi Smith proposes a fixed price monthly retainer of **\$2,335.00** plus two, one-time fixed costs of **\$1,605.00** and **\$2,360.00** for the services outlined below. The e-newsletter set-up will be invoiced for once the design is approved by the Districts or three months after the first check-in call, whichever comes first. Tripepi Smith will invoice for the email sign-up campaign and list management services after the outreach email is distributed or three months after the first check-in call, whichever comes first. Tripepi Smith remains flexible to adjust the scope based on the Districts’ needs.

Deliverable	Quantity/Notes
<u>Biweekly Strategy Discussions</u>	Leverages Business Analyst and Junior Business Analyst
Conduct bi-weekly client check-in calls to advise on outreach and strategy	Max. of 30 minutes per call
<u>Email Sign-Up Campaign and List Management</u>	Leverages Junior Business Analyst with support from Business Analyst and Senior Business Analyst
Review, update and build upon Water Districts’ current email list	Includes research, direct email and phone call outreach (up to 100 phone contacts) and initial list updates and maintenance
<u>E-Newsletter Set Up</u>	Leverages Senior Graphic Designer
Design and build an e-newsletter template using Constant Contact	Includes consultation with Districts on newsletter objectives, desired format and features
<u>Monthly E-Newsletter</u>	Leverages Junior Business Analyst with support from Business Analyst and Senior Business Analyst
Monthly e-newsletter content creation and distribution	Coordinate with Districts on content planning and strategy, write and edit content, manage newsletter distribution
ONE-TIME SET-UP COSTS	\$3,965.00
TOTAL MONTHLY COST	\$2,335.00
TOTAL ANNUAL COST (YEAR 1)	\$31,985.00

Monthly Retainer – Option 2

As a scaled-down option, Tripepi Smith proposes a fixed price monthly retainer of **\$1,150.00** plus two, one-time fixed costs of **\$1,605.00** and **\$2,360.00** for the services outlined below. The e-newsletter set-up will be invoiced for once the design is approved by the Districts or three months after the first check-in call, whichever comes first. Tripepi Smith will invoice for the email sign-up campaign and list management services after the outreach email is distributed or three months after the first check-in call, whichever comes first. Tripepi Smith remains flexible to adjust the scope based on the Districts’ needs.



Deliverable	Quantity/Notes
<u>Monthly Strategy Discussions</u>	Leverages Business Analyst and Junior Business Analyst
Conduct bi-weekly client check-in calls to advise on outreach and strategy	Max. of 30 minutes per call
<u>Email Sign-Up Campaign and List Management</u>	Leverages Junior Business Analyst with support from Business Analyst and Senior Business Analyst
Review, update and build upon Water Districts' current email list	Includes research, direct email and phone call outreach (up to 100 phone contacts) and initial list updates and maintenance
<u>E-Newsletter Set Up</u>	Leverages Senior Graphic Designer
Design and build an e-newsletter template using Constant Contact	Includes consultation with Districts on newsletter objectives, desired format and features
<u>Quarterly E-Newsletter</u>	Leverages Junior Business Analyst with support from Business Analyst and Senior Business Analyst
Quarterly e-newsletter content creation and distribution	Coordinate with Districts on content planning and strategy, write and edit content, manage newsletter distribution
ONE-TIME SET-UP COST	\$3,965.00
TOTAL MONTHLY COST	\$1,150.00
TOTAL ANNUAL COST (YEAR 1)	\$17,765.00



Pricing Estimates for Add-On Communication Support

Add-On Element	Price/Notes
<u>News Release/Article</u>	~\$700 / Per Release Inclusive of scope detailed below
<u>Distribution of Release Written by Districts</u>	~\$135 / Per Release Inclusive of scope detailed below
<u>Social Media Page Set-Up</u>	~\$220 / platform Inclusive of scope detailed below but dependent on Districts' needs and preferences
<u>Social Media Management</u>	Ongoing social media management pricing is dependent on the number of posts and platforms and can be provided upon request General scope details are below
<u>Graphic Design</u>	Print/Digital Flyer - ~\$1,500 Print/Digital Tri-Fold Brochure - ~\$3,600 Information about graphic design services is below

Detailed Description of Add-On Services

Written News Articles, Press Releases & Official Statements

Tripepi Smith can draft news articles, press releases and/or official statements, which are typically up to six hundred (600) words in length. The Districts would direct the allocation of stories with Tripepi Smith's suggestions, making internal subject matter experts available to aid the development of the stories when needed. The Districts would also facilitate timely approval of quotes in the release when connected with District Staff.

Press Release Distribution

Tripepi Smith is available to take press releases written by District Staff and proof, format and send to the Districts' established media distribution list.

Social Media Page Set-Up

Social media is a valuable tool to communicate directly with Districts' members and Paso Robles Groundwater Basin stakeholders. Tripepi Smith can assist with setting up official social media accounts for the Districts on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, X, and Nextdoor. Set up costs may inflate or deflate depending on the Districts' needs and preferences.

Social Media Management

Tripepi Smith can provide ongoing social media management services for the Districts' social media. Social media management services can include the following:

Content creation – Social media content creation involves: Planning, fact-checking, sourcing graphics, grammar checking and scheduling the post.

Monitoring – Tripepi Smith will monitor each post for questions and comments. When appropriate, responses will be drafted, which will occasionally require fact-checking and seeking out guidance from the Districts. Additionally, Tripepi Smith will provide general online monitoring of regional partner pages and community page to track community needs, priorities and issues.



Additional – Our work can also include optimizing social media accounts to boost performance and keeping up to date on the latest social media platform updates and options. Boosted posts and targeted ads are also helpful in disseminating information to community members, and Tripepi Smith is fully capable of running and tracking these paid campaigns (fees to be agreed upon and paid by the Districts).

Graphic Design

Tripepi Smith is a full-service graphic design shop. Our team can produce materials like print/digital flyers, brochures, brands/logos, photography, illustrations, informational graphics and more. In all cases, Tripepi Smith can assist with content development; however, costs may inflate based on your content needs.

Time and Materials Services and Direct Costs

The services listed above, as well as any other ad hoc work requested by the Districts, will be invoiced according to the Hourly – Standard rates below.

	Hourly - Standard	Hourly - Retainer
Principal	\$370	\$295
Director	\$255	\$215
Art/Creative Director	\$255	\$215
Senior Business Analyst	\$195	\$165
Business Analyst	\$140	\$115
Junior Business Analyst	\$110	\$95
Senior Videographer/Animator	\$195	\$165
Senior Photographer	\$170	\$145
Videographer/Photographer	\$130	\$110
Junior Videographer/Photographer	\$110	\$95
Senior Graphic Designer	\$185	\$155
Graphic Designer	\$130	\$110
Junior Graphic Designer	\$110	\$95
Web Developer	\$195	\$175
Junior Web Developer	\$110	\$95
Drone Operator	\$195	\$170
Council Chamber A/V Operator	\$110	\$95

Retainer Rates

Retainer Rates are available to the Water Districts if they decide to engage Tripepi Smith on a retainer of \$7,150 or more a month.



Billing

Time at Tripepi Smith is billed in 15-minute increments – i.e., we invoice our time in the following examples: 1.25, 0.75, 4.0 or 6.5 hours.

Annual Increase

Tripepi Smith will increase the hourly rates and retainer fees for all resources by five percent (5%) or the national BLS Consumer Price Index — whichever is higher — each year on the anniversary of the contract, starting on the first anniversary of any contract when the contract duration is longer than one year. Otherwise, new rates will be negotiated with each new contract renewal period.



Other Costs

Because Tripepi Smith offers a broad set of services, including extensive content production, we have some other content production-related fees that may come up during our engagement that we want to tell you about.

Travel Costs

Travel costs must be pre-authorized and then will be reimbursed by the Districts for any requested travel. Travel costs to be covered are for airfare, lodging and car rental. If Tripepi Smith is requested to be onsite, we will invoice for travel time at half rate of the resource’s Standard Hourly Rate.

Equipment Costs

Tripepi Smith offers some services that require equipment, such as drone operations and video production. As such, in those cases, the following rates apply:

	Half Day	Full Day
Video Equipment	\$400	\$600
Drone Equipment	N/A	\$500

- Six-hundred dollars (\$600) for a full day of video equipment use (includes full set of video equipment). Full day is defined as a shoot lasting four (4) or more hours.
- Four-hundred dollars (\$400) for a half day of video equipment use. Half day is defined as anything under four (4) hours of video production. All such expenses will be authorized by the Districts prior to fee being assessed.
- Five-hundred dollars (\$500) per day drone fee applies and is not inclusive of the drone operator time (Drone Operator rate).

Service Fees

	Client Pays Directly	Client Reimburses TS
Print costs, digital advertising, media placement, voiceover/captions	No Fees	10%

Typically, Tripepi Smith prefers to have service providers bill the client directly to avoid additional administrative costs and because we have no economic interest in the service provider selection. If Tripepi Smith is asked to pay the bill for the client, we will apply a ten percent (10%) agency fee to the reimbursement expense. Typical services include, but are not limited to:

Print Costs: Tripepi Smith is happy to use a printer of the client’s choosing for print production work, or to recommend a printer with whom we have experience.

Digital Advertising: Tripepi Smith is a Google Partner and Constant Contact Solution Provider and has Facebook Certified staff. We consider digital platforms to be a cornerstone element of any outreach strategy; often this comes with digital advertising fees.

Media Placement: Tripepi Smith can help liaise on behalf of the Districts for advertising space within various mediums, such as newspapers, magazine or websites.

Voiceover, Translation and Closed Caption Fees: Tripepi Smith occasionally uses third-party resources to record voiceovers for videos, generate closed captions for videos, and for non-English language translations.

Tripepi Smith Partnerships

Tripepi Smith has financial interest in certain related entities. These partnerships allow Tripepi Smith to offer clients extra media reach or additional services at partner pricing. Partnerships include:



PublicCEO

– digital news about public affairs, reaching over 10,000 California government executives

<https://www.publicceo.com>

Civic Business Journal

– digital interest stories about the people in local government

<https://www.civicbusinessjournal.com>

FlashVote

– planning, implementing, measuring civic surveys

<https://www.flashvote.com>

TS Talent Solutions

– talent search services for local government and related agencies

<https://tstalentsolutions.com>