

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager  
**FROM:** Doug Monn, Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance Study  
**DATE:** August 18, 2009

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**NEEDS:** For the City council to consider participating in a multi-agency update of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Water Balance.

**FACTS:**

1. A Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin) pumping evaluation was completed in May 2009.
2. The report projects that 2006 groundwater pumping is 90% of the estimated perennial yield of 97,700 AFY, and pumping in the Atascadero Subbasin is 95% of the perennial yield of 16,400 AFY.
3. The County prepared a Draft Resource Capacity Study (RCS) for the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin that relied on the pumping evaluation.
4. The Draft RCS deduces that:
  - ❖ Overall the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is in a Level of Severity I (LOS I) - a designation that pumping will exceed dependable supply within 9 years; and
  - ❖ The Atascadero Subbasin is at LOS III. – pumping is at or beyond the estimated dependable supply.
5. The City of Paso Robles, Templeton CSD, City of Atascadero, and the Atascadero Mutual Water Company (North County Agencies) observe that the pumping evaluation did not include an analysis of recharge which is needed to form conclusions regarding Basin capacity.
6. North County agencies are recommending calculation of basin recharge so that more accurate determinations of net water balance can be developed.

**ANALYSIS &  
CONCLUSION:**

The preliminary conclusions of the County's RCS were based on the results of the 2009 pumping evaluation that compiled pumpage information for water year 2006. Some of the assumptions made in the pumping evaluation regarding water demand were carried over from earlier studies. It is thought that some of those assumptions may need to be updated, as well as a general update of the entire Basin water balance. A water balance analysis will measure water in (recharge) and water out (pumping) and will provide a truer estimate of basin capacity.

Local agencies have requested that the County commission Fugro to conduct this evaluation of the Basin water balance equation, and update the Fugro (2002) water balance.

The costs for the project will be equally split among four North County Agencies, and the County who will serve as the lead agency. All agencies will provide technical review and oversight.

**POLICY**

**REFERENCES:** Integrated Water Resources Plan; Urban Water Management Plan; P.R.I.O.R Agreement.

**FISCAL**

**IMPACT:** Sufficient funds are available in the Water Operations Fund - \$15,000

- OPTIONS:**
- A. Adopt Resolution No. 09-xx authorizing the city to enter into a cost-share agreement with the County to commission Fugro to perform a Water Balance Study
  - B. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

Prepared by: Christopher Alakel, Water Resources Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 09-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO CONDUCT A GROUNDWATER BASIN WATER BALANCE  
UPDATE

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WHEREAS, the most recent water balance assessment of the Paso Robles Basin is based on data over ten years old; and

WHEREAS, expanding knowledge of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and of the overall impact of the City, County, Rural and Agricultural users is in the best interest of the City of Paso Robles and its water users; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles, Templeton CSD, City of Atascadero, Atascadero Mutual Water Company, and County of San Luis Obispo will equally fund the study.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Paso Robles does approve a one time appropriation from the Water Operations Fund in the amount of \$15,000 to budget account 600-310-5224-546; and

SECTION 2. The City Council does hereby authorize staff to enter into a cost-share agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo to jointly fund the study.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 18th day of August 2009 by the following votes:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

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Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cathy David, Deputy City Clerk