

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Hearing and Adoption of Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management Plan (AB 3030)
DATE: July 5, 2011

NEEDS: For the City Council to hold a public hearing and consider adoption of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan (GMP).

FACTS:

1. In 2008, the City of Paso Robles, in cooperation with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (County), received a \$242,000 AB 3030 Local Groundwater Assistance Grant to develop a Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin).
2. City and the County are required to hold a public hearing and adopt the GMP to receive all of the awarded grant funds.
3. The Basin is the principal water supply for northern San Luis Obispo County and southern Monterey County. Basin health is vitally important to the City and the region's agribusiness sector.
4. Annual groundwater pumping is rapidly approaching perennial yield, as evidenced by significant groundwater level declines in much of the Basin.
5. The Basin was recently designated, by the County Board of Supervisors, as a Level of Severity III due to rapidly declining water supply availability.
6. The GMP provides a framework for voluntary, basin-wide implementation of water-management activities to achieve long-term groundwater sustainability.
7. Implementation of the GMP commenced in April, with the formation of a 15-member Steering Committee to facilitate project implementation. The committee is comprised of representatives from the agricultural industry, water providers, cities, the County, and rural residential water users.

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

The key basin management objective identified by stakeholders is to stabilize groundwater levels and stop the chronic water level declines that are occurring over much of the basin. Since 1997, the rate of water level decline has averaged approximately 5-6 feet per year in the Estrella (Paso Robles) area.

While much has been accomplished in recent years in terms of improving water use efficiency in the agricultural and municipal sectors, more is needed. Education and outreach programs in all water use sectors are recommended to improve efficiency and lessen demands on the Basin. Some of the key near-term actions (1-3 years) identified in the GMP include:

- (a) Promote voluntary implementation of water-use efficiency projects in the agricultural, rural residential and urban (municipal) sectors.
- (b) Enhance the County's water level measurement network. Additional wells and data will improve the ability to predict future water level changes and to evaluate the impact of programs on water levels.
- (c) Develop a strategy and work plan for updating the basin groundwater model.
- (d) The Steering Committee will compile and disseminate, an annual report updating basin groundwater conditions and progress.

Summary

Achieving the objectives of the Groundwater Management Plan will require the on-going, long-term efforts of municipal, agricultural, and rural residential stakeholders. Some activities and projects will be carried out through the voluntary, collaborative efforts of the Steering Committee. Projects and activities carried out by the Steering Committee will require financial and staff support from member organizations. Other GMP projects may be implemented independently by individual stakeholders or organizations.

POLICY

REFERENCE: AB 3030, SB 1938, City Integrated Water Resources Plan, P.R.I.O.R. Agreement, City Urban Water Management Plan, Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management Plan.

FISCAL

IMPACT: \$20,000 per year expenditure from the water fund.

OPTIONS:

- a. City Council adopt Resolution No. 11-XXXX approving the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan, and authorizing an annual appropriation of \$20,000 per year to Budget Account #600-310-5235-364 to support plan implementation efforts.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Prepared By: Keith Larson, Water Conservation Program Manager

Attachment: Groundwater Management Plan – Potential Steering Committee Projects

**Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management Plan Steering Committee
Potential Costs of Near-Term Projects (1-3 Years)
to be Shared by Steering Committee Organizations**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Potential Cost</u>
1. Conduct outreach programs to solicit well owner participation in County well measurement program	\$10,000 - \$12,000 per brochure
2. Conduct outreach programs to promote vineyard irrigation Best Management Practices (BMPs)	\$10,000 - \$12,000 per brochure
3. Conduct workshops on water use efficiency	\$2,500 - \$5,000 per workshop
4. Construct additional dedicated monitoring wells	\$30,000 - \$40,000 per well
5. Development of a strategy to update basin groundwater model	\$10,000 - \$20,000
6. Develop and disseminate Paso Robles Basin GMP annual report	\$5,000 - \$10,000 per year

Note: List is preliminary and subject to discussion and change by the Steering Committee.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
ADOPTING THE PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles received an AB 3030 grant in conjunction with the San Luis Obispo County Water Conservation and Flood Control District, from the California Department of Water Resource to prepare a regional groundwater management plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Luis Obispo held a public hearing and adopted a resolution of intention to prepare a regional groundwater management plan; and

WHEREAS, the City and the County contacted potential interested parties to notify them about the project and invite their participation in the project stakeholder group called the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC); and

WHEREAS, the participants in the Groundwater Advisory Committee included area cities, water providers, agricultural organizations, and individual groundwater users; and

WHEREAS, the groundwater management plan recommends numerous water management actions to improve sustainability of the basin's groundwater water supplies; and

WHEREAS, a Steering Committee has been formed to facilitate implementation of the groundwater management plan recommendations and funding is needed to support the committee's efforts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan is hereby adopted and ordered filed with the City Clerk.
2. The Water Resources Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file this Plan with the California Department of Water Resources;
3. An annual allocation of \$20,000 is to be appropriated to Budget Account #600-310-5235-364 to support groundwater management plan implementation.

Passed and adopted this 5th Day of July, 2011 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk