

RESOLUTION NO. 14-021

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
SUPPORTING FORMATION OF A CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT
OVER A PORTION OF THE PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN

WHEREAS, in recent years declining groundwater levels have been reported in certain areas of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, particularly east of the Paso Robles Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 3246 (the “County Ordinance”), establishing a temporary moratorium on new or expanded irrigated crop production and other activities throughout the unincorporated area and other portions of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the County Ordinance will expire and that its focus is limited to crop irrigation, stakeholders throughout the groundwater basin have been exploring options for more comprehensive basin management; and

WHEREAS, months of public meetings have ensued with significant contributions from rural residents represented by a group known as PRO Water Equity and agriculturalists represented by a group known as PRAAGS – Paso Robles Agricultural Alliance for Groundwater Solutions; and

WHEREAS, together, PRO Water Equity and PRAAGS are sponsoring a petition for the formation of a water district and seek support from the City of Paso Robles for such petition, a draft of which dated January 30, 2014 (the “Draft Petition”) has been submitted to the City for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Petition states that the proposed water district would be formed pursuant to California Water Code Sections 34000 through 38501, known as the California Water District Law, which outlines steps for formation and overall powers of such water districts; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Petition proposes procedures for the initial Board of Directors of the water district to be nominated in accordance with the Water Code, although PRAAGS and PRO Water Equity have agreed to propose special legislation to provide for future Boards of Directors to be elected by both landowners from a variety of parcel sizes (6 Directors) and residents (3 Directors) within the water district; and

WHEREAS, according to the Draft Petition, the proposed water district would encompass approximately 460 square miles of the overall 790 square miles Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and would exclude (i) land within the City limits; (ii) the identified “subbasin” from which Atascadero Mutual Water Company and the City pump; (iii) Monterey County; and (iv) areas served by existing water retailers; and

WHEREAS, successfully addressing declining water levels in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is likely to require a combination of demand management and supplemental supplies along with funding to actively manage the basin; and

WHEREAS, forming the proposed water district should result in an entity with the powers to take those active management steps; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles will not be included within the boundaries of the proposed water district, but sees the regional benefits of such formation such as 1) undertaking basin recharge projects using available Nacimiento and/or State Water Project supplies, 2) purchasing recycled water from the City for beneficial reuse, and/or 3) partnering with the City on supplemental water supply projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby support formation of the proposed water district as set forth in the Draft Petition to cover a portion of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the 18th day of February, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Hamon, Martin, Strong, Picanco

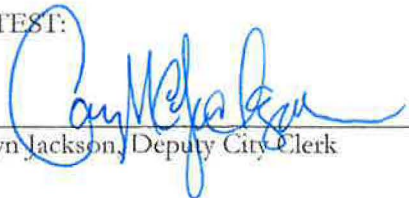
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Steinbeck


Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:


Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk