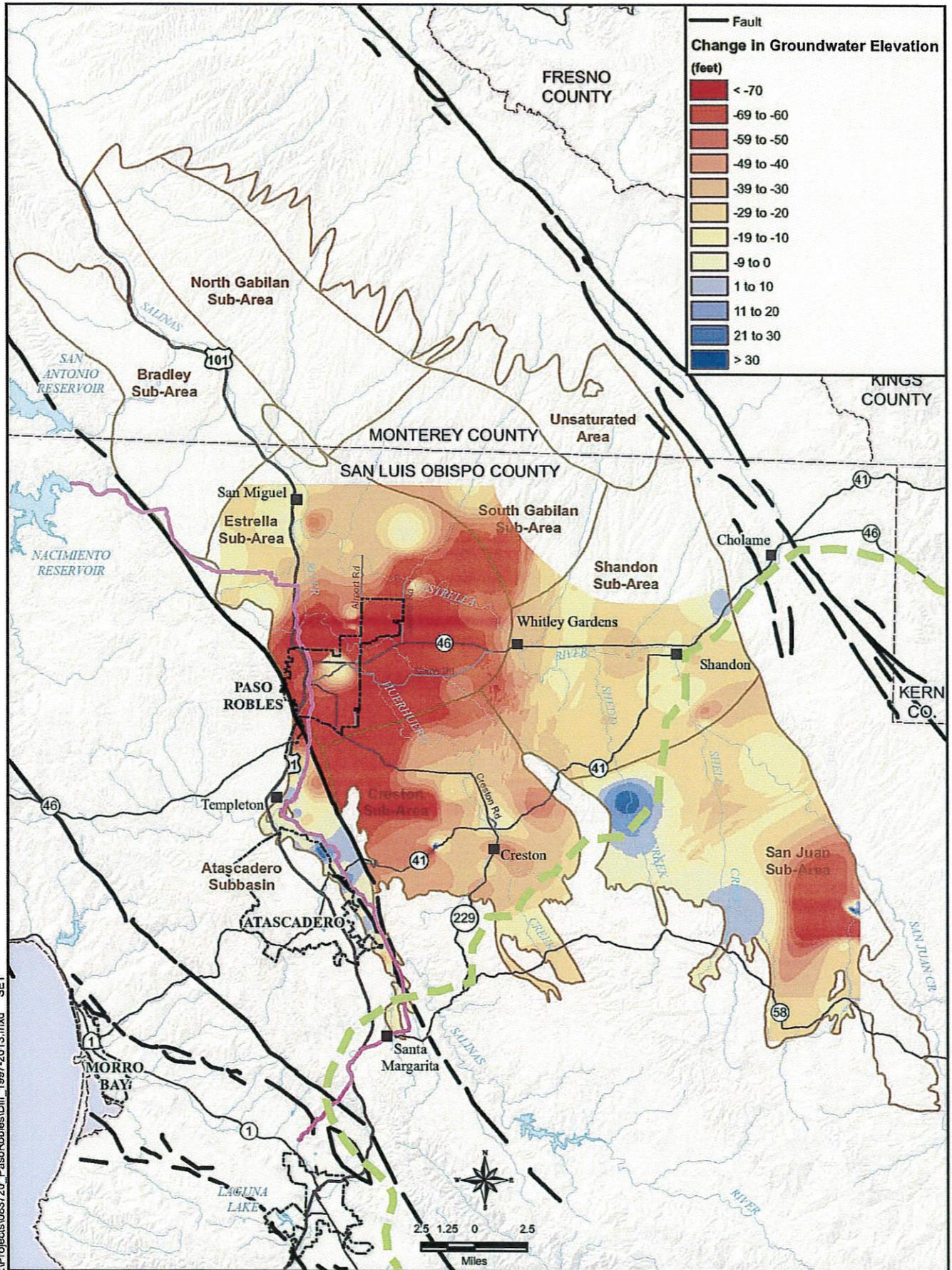


TEMPLETON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Points for August 25, 2015 DWR Meeting on Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basins

- As DWR currently defines groundwater basins in Bulletin 118, Templeton is on the far western side of the Paso Robles Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Basin. Specifically, Templeton is located in the valley formed by the Salinas River south of Paso Robles.
- That valley locally is called the Atascadero subbasin. For many years, it has been recognized as at least a hydrologically distinct subbasin of the Paso Robles basin. We believe that DWR should recognize the Atascadero subbasin as a separate basin. DWR's basin boundaries for other parts of the Paso Robles basin – such as at the north end – are less firm than the boundary between the Paso Robles and Atascadero basins.
- There are significant differences between the Atascadero and Paso Robles basins. For nearly 80% of their boundary, they are separated by hard rock uplifted by the Rinconada Fault. Their hydrologies are very different because the Salinas River runs the length of the Atascadero basin and provides substantial recharge to all of it, while the river runs only on the extreme west side of the much larger Paso Robles basin. These factors prevent groundwater declines in that basin from reaching the Atascadero basin.
- It is well-known that groundwater levels in the Atascadero basin are in better condition than in the parts of the main Paso Robles basin cited by DWR's draft designation. The County of San Luis Obispo has recognized this fact many times. Its land use reports recognize that the Atascadero basin's groundwater is in better condition. The County's 2013 emergency ordinance called the Atascadero subbasin hydrologically distinct from the Paso Robles basin and left the subbasin out of that ordinance's well moratorium.
- DWR's draft critical-overdraft designation in the Paso Robles basin relies mainly on the fact that well levels have dropped significantly in parts of the basin where land that was range land has been converted to irrigated agriculture. That conversion has not occurred to anywhere near the same degree in the Atascadero basin. As a result of that, and of the separation of the two basins, the declining groundwater levels that DWR cites have not occurred in the Atascadero basin. It would be inappropriate to rely on those groundwater declines in other areas to call the Atascadero basin critically overdrafted.
- This is not just a matter of whether a groundwater sustainability plan will have to be prepared by 2020 or 2022. Calling an area "critically overdrafted" has significant local ramifications. Templeton also is defending a lawsuit by about 500 landowners concerning groundwater rights. A critical overdraft designation may affect Templeton's position in that lawsuit. Finally, we understand that the Governor's administration is proposing legislation that might result in courts ordering that pumping be reduced in critically overdrafted basins that are in litigation. DWR's designation could have critical implications for Templeton that are not at all justified by the condition of the Atascadero basin from which Templeton pumps water to serve the public.
- If DWR believes that it has to make a critical overdraft designation as defined by Bulletin 118, it should change Bulletin 118 to recognize the Atascadero basin as separate from the Paso Robles basin.



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Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
In San Luis Obispo County

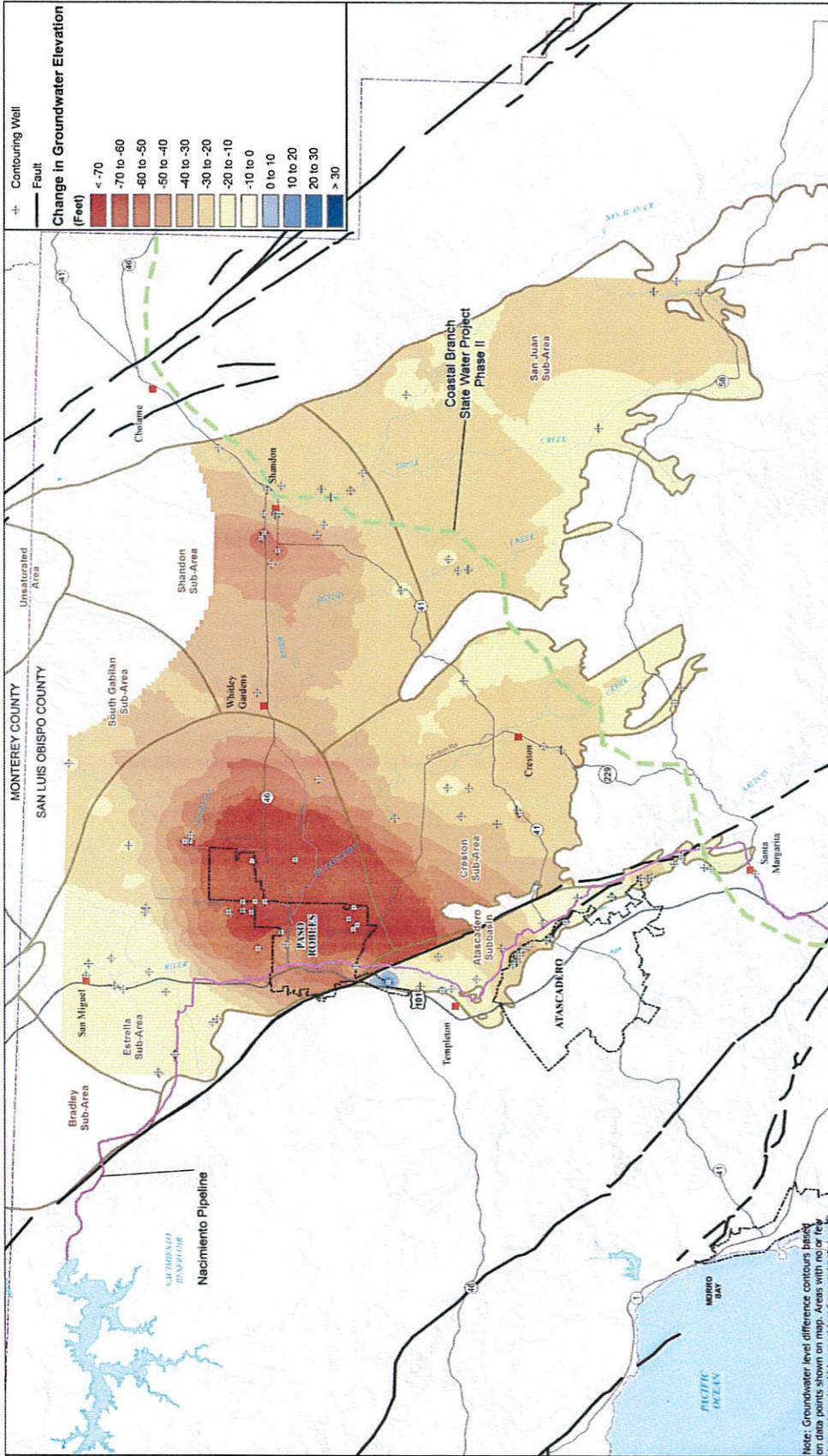
San Luis Obispo County, California



**GENERALIZED DIFFERENCE IN SPRING GROUND-
WATER ELEVATIONS BETWEEN 1997 - 2013**

AUGUST 2013

FIGURE 1



DIFFERENCE IN SPRING GROUNDWATER ELEVATION
1997-2009

FEBRUARY 2011

FIGURE 3-3



Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
Groundwater Management Plan

City of Paso Robles
San Luis Obispo County, California



Note: Groundwater level difference contours based on data points shown on map. Areas with no or few data points should be considered approximate.

Sub-Area WSE Trend Analysis

Mon. Entity The County of San Luis Obispo, CA

Date 05/29/2015

Sub-Area Information	
Sub-Area	Atascadero
Basin Name	Atascadero

Sub-Area Well Records	
Period of Record	1969-2015
Num. BMO Wells	4

Report Information	
Report Start Year	1981
Period of Record	1981-2015

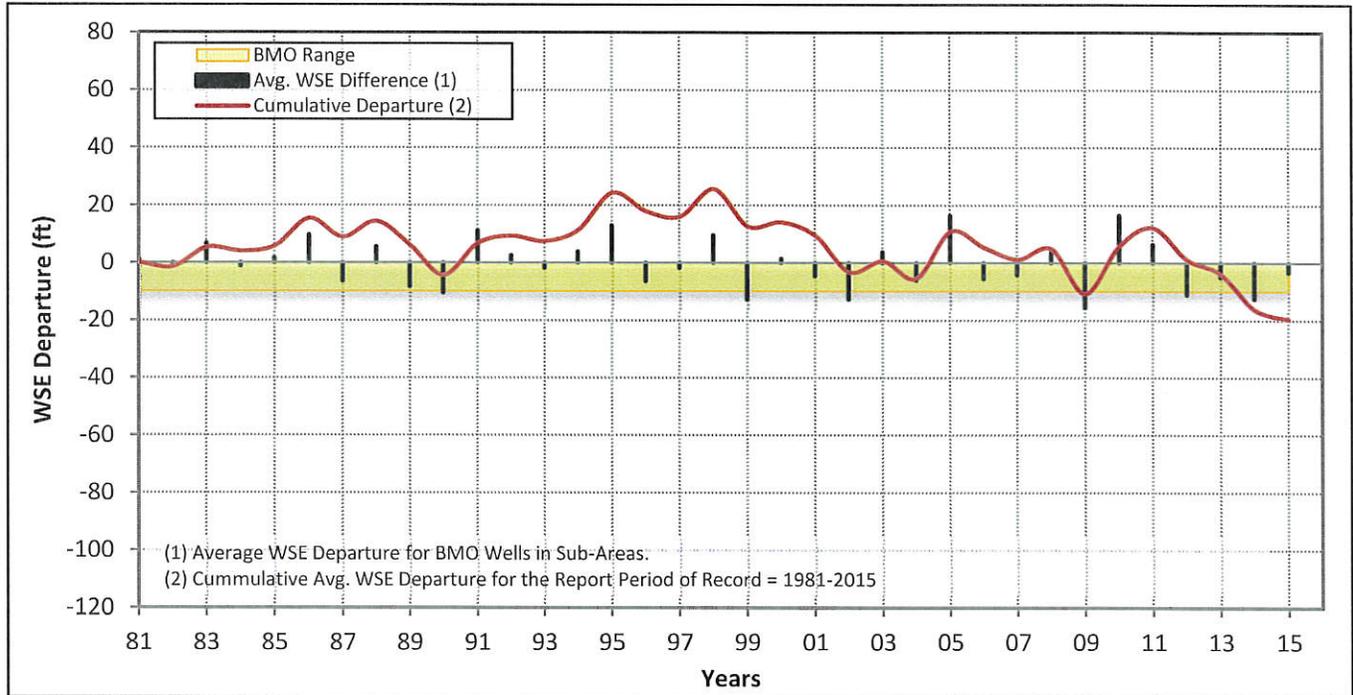
Raingage Information	
Raingage Name	Paso Robles #10
Raingage Elev.	700.00 ft

Raingage Records	
Period of Record	1887-2015
Average Precip.	14.89 in

Trend Analysis Results	
BMO Target ¹⁾	(10.00 ft)
2015 CD	(19.58 ft)

NOTES: 1) The Basin Management Objective (BMO) is to maintain the Cummulative Departure (CD) above the BMO Target

Spring Water Surface Elevation (WSE) Trends



Precipitation Trends

