

PRO Water Equity, Inc.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Overliers for Water Equity

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P.O. Box 255, Templeton, CA 93465

September 15, 2015

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Sustainable Groundwater Management Section
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Comments on draft list of critically overdrafted basins

On August 6, 2015, your agency issued a draft list of critically overdrafted basins which includes the Paso Robles Area (3-04.06). Locally, we consider this to be the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The reasons for identification were groundwater depletion, declines in the groundwater table of over 70 feet in parts of the basin from 1997 to 2013.

This designation is factual and only tells part of the story. Groundwater levels throughout many parts of the basin have declined significantly. The County's data backs this up, as does the personal experience of many residents and agriculturalists. Just between wells utilized by our organization's board members to supply our homes, well levels have fallen as far as 150 feet since 1998.

We are glad that your agency has chosen to look at years before the current drought. The water levels declines have taken place over a couple of decades and will continue into the future without proper management of the Basin.

Water quality degradation and land subsidence were not included in the undesirable impacts considered for the Paso Basin. Very little measurement of either parameter has been performed. However, many of us know from personal experience that the water quality has drastically degraded as we have been forced into drilling deeper in search of water for our homes. Recent work by the USGS has also documented that these deeper waters may be considered "ancient" and are not being recharged.

We agree with the designation of the Paso Robles Area as critically overdrafted.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sue Luft
President



Laurie Gage
Vice President



Jan Seals
Treasurer



Sheryl Coats
Secretary

cc: Courtney Howard, SLO County Public Works
John Diodati, SLO County Public Works

Mission Statement: To promote the health, safety, common good and general welfare of the community by advocating for the stabilization and sustainability of the Paso Robles groundwater basin for the benefit of all overliers.