

Press Release

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Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District votes to Ban Export of Water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

Paso Robles, Calif. – January 16, 2018 - At a regular meeting of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston (EPC) Water District, Directors voted 5 to 0 to publicly reaffirm the District’s position on prohibition of any export of water from the basin. District Board members are dedicated to addressing concerns of community members who are pursuing a voter initiative to ban export of water from groundwater basins in San Luis Obispo County.

Dana Merrill, President of the Board of the EPC Water District said, “banning export of water is consistent with the District’s intentions and is consistent with the interests of the District’s Directors and the District’s membership at large.” “Property owners have invested considerable expense in their vineyards and/or agricultural activities and to export water undermines this investment.” The EPC Water District is already prohibited from exporting water, as stated in Measure C-17 (District Formation) which passed by 97 percent in October 2017. The District was also prohibited from exporting water as a condition of approval at the LAFCO Hearing in April 2017.

The EPC Water District was originally formed to provide landowners with a mechanism to participate in the GSA and implement strategies to sustainably manage the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The District remains committed to complying with SGMA and being part of the solution.

The full text of the statement voted on by the Directors of the EPC Water District is presented below:

“The EPC Water District is aware of a potential initiative campaign coming forward that would prevent export of groundwater from the Paso Robles groundwater basin.

The EPC Water District **supports** restrictions that would prevent the export of Water from our Basin.

Export of water from the basin has been consistently **opposed** by the EPC Water District and its members. Our charter as defined by LAFCO, bans the export of water from our basin. The State SGMA Law mandates a sustainable basin and export of water would be contrary to that requirement. Additionally, the County has a robust ordinance that severely restricts the export of water.

The EPC Water District welcomes additional efforts to strengthen restrictions and prevent the exportation of groundwater from the Paso Robles groundwater basin.”

The EPC Water District Board intends to stay engaged in this discussion of export of water from our Basin and we look forward to supporting additional measures that would restrict the exportation of groundwater from our basin.

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