



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District

P.O. Box 1499

Paso Robles, CA 93447

www.epcwd.org info@epcwd.org

April 30, 2021

Lynn Compton, Chair of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey St., Suite D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Chair Compton and Supervisors,

The Paso Robles Groundwater Basin has been affected by droughts in recent years and therefore the Basin is short some 13,000 to 16,000 AF. Compared to other basins in the State which are in deficit close to 1 million AF, we seem to be in a better situation than some.

The basic fact that droughts occur in California has been a part of California's history for centuries. We need to accept the fact that future droughts will happen.

Since the implementation of SGMA, we have been charged with the duty to balance the Basin. This will continue to be a difficult task if we do not focus on methods and tools to complete this mission. Therefore, it seems logical to pursue all supplemental water sources.

Regarding the recent applications by the Shandon-San Juan Water District to the State Water Resources Control Board and the Board of Supervisors intention to respond in opposition to these applications with a letter to the SWRCB (Consent Agenda Item #13, Board of Supervisors Agenda for May 4, 2021), the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District offers the following points for consideration:

- The Paso Basin is a Critically Overdrafted Basin and the Basin will need supplemental water in the future.
- For decades, if not centuries, cities, counties, water districts and other agencies have pursued supplemental water. This is normal, customary and a primary role of those agencies to provide basic services for their constituents.
- Supplemental water benefits everyone.
- The GSP specifically calls for the pursuit of supplemental water.
- GSAs have an obligation to go after supplemental water.
- The County has an obligation to pursue any and all opportunities for supplemental water.

- To reject the applications made by the Shandon-San Juan Water District to the SWRBC out of hand without any attempt to analyze the applications reflects a trivial, biased, and unprofessional approach to a serious issue.
- The SWRCB's review of the applications will be a long complex process, probably years. There is no need to act now without a fuller understanding of that process and potential impacts.
- Time is needed by all parties to fully analyze the applications and then come to an informed opinion.

The Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District recommends the following:

- This item should be removed from the Consent Calendar of the May 4, 2021 agenda and receive full scrutiny of the Board of Supervisors, with the opportunity for the public to participate in the process through public comment.
- The Board of Supervisors should decline sending a letter to the SWRCB at this time.

In summary, to simply object to a potential supplemental water source before it can be fully reviewed and vetted by proper authorities is not a logical step forward to balancing the Basin. It is suggested that the pending applications submitted by the Shandon-San Juan Water District to SWRCB be allowed to be reviewed on their own merits. This process will no doubt take a considerable amount of time, not to mention development of data and the use of science. Finally, the time has come for all in the Basin to set aside emotions and conspiracy theories. It is imperative that we work together to balance the Basin in a way such that all users benefit. The Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District is eager to work with the GSAs in creating a sustainable Basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dana M. Merrill, President
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
PO Box 1499
Paso Robles, CA 93447
info@epc wd.org

cc: Supervisor John Peschong
Supervisor Bruce Gibson
Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg
Supervisor Debbie Arnold