



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District

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March 17, 2023

County of San Luis Obispo
Groundwater Sustainability Department
Blaine Reely, Director
1055 Monterey Street, STE D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Re: Support for the Grant Request for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin – County of San Luis Obispo GSA’s grant application for the California Department of Conservation Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application

Dear Mr. Reely:

The Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD) would like to offer this letter of commitment as a **partner** and in support of the Paso Robles Subbasin – County of San Luis Obispo GSA’s (County GSA) application for a \$8.89 million block grant from the Department of Conservation Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program to fund the Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin Multibenefit Irrigated Lands Repurposing (MILR) Program.

The EPCWD is a California District that was formed in late 2017 to represent the interests of agricultural pumpers and rural residents in the Paso Robles Groundwater Subbasin and to participate in the development of the Basin’s GSP. The District has 193 members and represent approximately 15,000 irrigated acres. District members account for approximately 42% of groundwater extraction in the Paso Robles Subbasin and is the largest organized group of extractors in the Subbasin.

The EPCWD is an important stakeholder in the Paso Robles Subbasin and provides key input and feedback on Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation activities through the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC) which is comprised of the County GSA, City of Paso Robles GSA, San Miguel Community Services District GSA and the Shandon-San Juan Water District GSA.

The EPCWD has been and will continue to commit to partnering with the County GSA on the MILR Program and will provide funds or in-kind services, as deemed appropriate, to (1) perform outreach, (2) provide education and training to stakeholders (including farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged community members, tribes, and other interested practitioners, as appropriate) for development and implementation of a Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan as part of the MILR program, (3) provide technical review of specific program elements, (4) assist with project development and permitting, (5) assist with implementation of selected projects, and (6) assist with monitoring of selected projects to ensure Program objectives are being met. As a MILR Program partner, the EPCWD commits to supporting the critical capacity needs of Program partners and collaborators to ensure participation can be sustained and meaningful to meet MILR Program goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to partner in the County GSA’s application for the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Grant.

Sincerely,

Dana M. Merrill

President, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District