



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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SLOFARMBUREAU.ORG

January 22, 2021

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey Street Suite D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
By email to: ad_Board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us

Re: January 26, 2021 Agenda Item 28: Request to provide staff direction on land use policy development for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Supervisors:

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau has serious concerns about Item 28, "Request to provide staff direction on land use policy development for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin," on the January 26, 2021 agenda.

For the first time in the history of San Luis Obispo County, this Board of Supervisors is contemplating requiring a CEQA review for the planting of new crops. While you are targeting the Paso Basin in this action, the County is setting a dangerous precedent for how it will regulate agriculture in other groundwater basins across San Luis Obispo County. Our local farmers now have to worry when the County is going to bring this costly, anti-business new regulation to their fields. If an overdrafted Paso Basin warrants this unprecedented level of new red-tape, why not other basins that are out of balance?

We remain willing to work with you on ways to achieve our shared goal of groundwater basin sustainability in Paso Robles and other basins in the County. An overdrafted basin is bad for farm families and our neighbors alike. An extension of the existing Agricultural Offset Requirements that expire January 1, 2022 would be a better approach than this new CEQA requirement.

Sincerely,

Brent Burchett, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau