

[EXT]Item 28 - Joint comments - NCW and Sierra Club

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To: AD-Board-Clerk <ad_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>; Board of Supervisors <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>

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Board of Supervisors

County of San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Sent via EMAIL: ad_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us

January 26, 2021

Re Item 28: Staff direction on land use policy in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

Dear Chair Compton and Supervisors,

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and North County Watch have historically supported California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) oversight for all projects. This support includes utilizing CEQA to consider and mitigate the potential impacts of agricultural projects.

As California faces increasingly dire impacts from climate change, the future economic health of our county will depend on long term planning to sustain a viable agricultural industry. Agriculture has prospered here due to an abundance of water. Water is no longer abundant and water resources need to be much more carefully monitored and regulated than they have been in the past if the county hopes to retain its agricultural roots.

We support CEQA review as policy for land use in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and all agricultural projects in the County. We urge your board to support a comprehensive and robust program to review and mitigate new agricultural projects. Such review and mitigation is essential to protect water resources for ALL residents in the county and to have a hope of preserving the ag industry.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Susan Harvey, President

North County Watch

805-239-0542

Andrew Christie, Director

Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

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"Pay attention. Someday, you'll be the last one who remembers."

Virginia Trimble, Astrophysicist