SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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June 5, 2023

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

Re: Comment on Agenda Item 54 - Resolution withdrawing from serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD) service area

Supervisors,

On behalf of San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, this letter is in support of Item 54 on the June 6, 2023 Board of Supervisors agenda, a resolution withdrawing from serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) within the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD) service area.

The path to meet our state-mandated goal of achieving groundwater sustainability will certainly be challenging, but it is absolutely achievable. Looking around the state at other basins with substantially larger groundwater deficits, getting the Paso Basin into balance is a solvable problem. The makeup of districts participating as GSAs in the Paso Basin does not change what we must accomplish. As the predominant users of groundwater, our local agriculture community must be a leader in the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

EPCWD has doubled the County's groundwater well monitoring network in the Paso Basin. They have provided information needed to better inform decision-making in the basin. They stepped up to support Cal Poly's 2020 research study, "The Economic Impact on the Local Economy of Irrigated Agriculture in the Paso Robles Area and Potential Impacts of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act" to quantify job losses and harm to our community from certain management actions, analysis that was largely absent from our GSP.

Approval of this resolution still maintains the choice property owners have on whether to join this water district or not. If property owners prefer to be governed by the County GSA, they can.

Sincerely,

Brent Burchett, Executive Director
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau