The Paso Robles Basin

...a subbasin of the...

Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin
2011 Land Use Irrigated Agricultural Types
(Source: SLOCFCWCD, 2012)

- **Orange**: Alfalfa
- **Black**: Deciduous
- **Red**: Nursery
- **Green**: Pasture
- **Green**: Truck
- **Purple**: Vineyard
Groundwater Elevation Change

1997 to 2013
STAKEHOLDERS

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
SLO County Flood Control District
Public Works Department

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Dept
Water Resource Management

- Phase I&II Reports (’02, ’05) – Red Flag!
  - 2005 PRIOR Agreement
  - Groundwater Banking Study
  - 2009 Pumping Evaluation
  - 2010 Water Balance Review / Update
- Resource Capacity Determinations
- Implementation of Nacimiento Project
PRIOR Agreement

- Executed 2005
- Landowners wish to preserve their overlying groundwater rights...
- Parties wish to reach amicable solutions...
- Basin Not in Overdraft per 2002 Analysis
- Landowners agree to not commence litigation.
- Termination and Overdraft Declaration
- Cooperation with Groundwater Management
Resource Capacity Study

- Yield estimated at 97,700 afy
- Pumping approaching yield
- Well levels in specific areas are declining up to and in excess of 100’
- Recommendations include limiting approval of subdivisions with subsequent Ordinances approved by Board of Supervisors
Groundwater Management Plan

- Municipalities
- Agriculture
- Rural Landowners
- Regulatory – Steelhead Recovery
- Environmental
- Advisory Groups
- PRIOR
- New! PRAAGS, PRO Water Equity
Pieces of the Solutions Puzzle

- Monitoring and Management
  - Urgency Ordinance
  - Computer Model Update of the Basin
  - Governance Structure

- Supply Management – Evaluating the options and combinations of physical solutions to help stabilize levels in the future
  - Feasibility Studies/IRWM Efforts

- Demand Management - What strategies may be necessary
  - Conservation Management Alternatives
Timing Considerations

- **Completion of Groundwater Model Update**
- **Efforts leading to and Election to Form District if applicable, which may be extended for Stakeholder Outreach**
- **District Formation and Period to Integrate District Programs with Permanent County Ordinances if applicable**

- **BOS Consideration of Urgency Ordinance(s)**
- **Effective Period of County Urgency Ordinance, (maximum period if Adopted 8/27/2013)**
- **Adoption of Permanent County Ordinance(s) if Deemed appropriate by BOS, which can be sooner with or without an Urgency Ordinance**
Ordinances

**Urgency Ordinance**
- Land Use authority
- Police power
- Ag and residential demand offsets
  - No new net demand

**Permanent Ordinance**
- Mediated process
- Set goals
- Think implementation first!
Opportunities and Challenges

- Groundwater as a common good/fair share/freeriders
- Fair cost allocations
- Regulation of new development to reduce groundwater demand
- Balancing local control with adequate oversight
- Balanced representation
- Balancing the three E’s
Questions?

www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning
www.slocountywater.org

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin