

**Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Special Meeting**  
**Public Workshop #3**  
**Kermit King Elementary, 700 Schoolhouse Circle, Paso Robles, CA**  
**May 14, 2018**  
***Projects and Programs for Groundwater Management***  
**Meeting Summary**

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Comment for items not on the agenda (1 question)
  - Question from Greg Grewal: What previous studies and reports are consulting team using? (Answered by Derrik Williams)
5. Welcome (Ellen Cross, Strategy Driver)
  - a. Introduction
  - b. Invitation to take the communication & engagement survey
  - c. Announcement of Groundwater Communication Portal launch at [www.pasogcp.com](http://www.pasogcp.com)
  - d. Review meeting format
6. Consultant presentation
  - a. Recap of previous meetings
  - b. Today's meeting purpose
  - c. Review of Paso Basin studies and previously identified potential projects (Lydia Holmes, Carollo)
  - d. Review of potential management actions for groundwater sustainability (Matthew Payne, Water Exchange)
7. Public invited to comment on potential project and program attributes, as well as evaluation criteria, for selecting projects and management actions
  - a. Preliminary attributes suggested by consultants
    - Yield/Basin benefit in AFY
      - Reliability year to year
      - Quality concerns
    - Ability to benefit measurable objective(s)
    - Implementation timeline
    - Costs – capital and O&M (\$/AFY)
    - Institutional/technical issues
      - Legal authority
      - Regulatory/permitting
      - Water rights
      - Contractual
    - Environmental impacts
    - Regional/third-party economic impacts

- b. Additional attributes suggested by public meeting attendees
    - Environmental
    - Legal
    - Reliability
    - Quality of life impacts
    - Sub-basin recognition and prioritization
    - Consumer accountability
    - Land use/zoning consideration
    - Funding from private parties or defined areas/willingness to pay
  - c. Additional public comments during criteria discussion
    - We should start with easy projects and actions first; City of Paso Robles should reduce pumping, take Nacimiento water, and use recycled water; not begin with interbasin transfers
    - Subbasins/subbasins need to be considered (as they were 20 years ago)
    - There should be consumer accountability – as a ratepayer, what am I paying for?
    - What are regional / 3rd party impacts? Wine industry is direct impacts (not 3rd party)
    - How is the team determining “baseline conditions”?
    - Does this group have a legal binding agreement to what they say they are going to do? Is it a legal binding document? (yes)
8. Small group discussions
- Attendees visited four rotating stations for approximately 15 minutes at each station – stations listed below
    - In-basin supply projects
    - Out-of-basin supply projects
    - Trades/exchanges/incentives
    - Conservation measures
  - Attendees brainstormed potential projects and actions at each of the four stations
  - Consultant team facilitated the discussions
  - Cooperative Committee and Cooperative Committee staff recorded the suggestions from the public
  - See “Rotating Groups Session” on the following pages to view ideas generated at each station
9. Thank you and conclusion
10. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

# Rotating Groups Session

At the May 14, 2018 GSP Informational Meeting, the consultant team made a presentation about previously identified potential projects for and studies done in the Paso Robles Basin. After the presentation and an interactive discussion about attributes that may be used for selecting projects and management actions, the meeting attendees broke up into four small groups. These small groups rotated among four stations over the next hour, where they participated in brainstorming sessions about possible projects and management actions to implement SGMA in the Paso Robles Basin. The small group stations each discussed one of the following topics:

- In-basin water supply projects
- Out-of-basin water supply projects
- Trades, exchanges, and incentives
- Conservation Measures

***The lists below reflect the ideas generated by the small groups at each station. These lists do not reflect endorsement of any particular projects or actions by the consulting team or the GSAs. They are intended to capture statements made by members of the public.***



## Station 1 In-Basin Supply Projects

Hosted by Derrik Williams, Hydrometrics WRI and Angela Ruberto, San Luis Obispo County

Ideas from the small groups related to in-Basin water supply projects:

- Slow down flows in Salinas River
- Optimize Salinas River recharge
- Incentive-based recharge
- Improve local stream recharge
- Recharge on floodplains (with environmental benefit)
- Forest management
- Recharge above the basin/higher up in basin
- Better weather prediction for fine-tuned dam releases

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**Paso Robles Basin GSP Informational Meeting #3 – May 14, 2018**  
**PROJECTS & MANAGEMENT ACTIONS ROTATING GROUP STATIONS**

- Upgrade and expand dams
- Jerret Dam
- Honor existing agreements
- Mandate reclamation on all new development
- Encourage mutual water company development
- Maximize recycled water
- Cloud seeding
- Adding more local water on the west side of the Basin
- Cisterns to store runoff in Paso Robles
- Capture urban runoff (low-impact development)

## Station 2 Out of Basin Supply Projects

Hosted by Lydia Holmes, Carollo Engineers and Randy Diffenbaugh, Shandon-San Juan Water District

### Ideas from the small groups related to out-of-Basin water supply projects:

- Watershed restoration projects
  - Management
  - Restore after fires/reseed with native vegetation
- Recharge with State Water Project (SWP) water
- Salinas Dam raise
- Dam/capture McMillan Canyon
- Capitalize on any excess in Salinas Dam (S. MARG) on annual basis
- Trading coastal cities (desalination, SWP)
- SWP water too expensive and not reliable
- Purchase “excess” Nacimiento water from subscribers
- Lessen regulation/provide incentives for stock ponds
- Ability to intertie and pump in various directions
- Paso use more Nacimiento water and pump less
- Study Salinas Watershed at headwaters for potential
- Cloud seeding
- Rubber dams
- No pumping/transfer in different parts of basin
- Tunnel project/use all Nacimiento water available
- Capture precipitation as runoff (basins, dams, stockponds, in/off stream, capture in cities/towns, upland recharge)
- Maximize SWP water/buy SWP in wet years & put in infrastructure to recharge
- Recycled water
- Treat SWP water at Shandon so raw water is available for agriculture
- Turn SWP into stream from Parkfield
- Bring raw water from SWP into Basin
- Annual water budget/yield

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## Station 3 Trades/Exchanges/Incentives

Hosted by Matt Payne, WestWater and Dick McKinley, City of Paso Robles

### Ideas from the small groups related to trades, exchanges, and incentives:

- How to implement trades over long distances
- Credits for recharge pits on private property – mandatory pits if you drill a well
- Tax credits for rainwater capture (requires agreement on how water is captured)
- AquaShare – to have credits for recharges and debits for withdrawals
- Most of these ideas are done somewhere in the country – and in California – swap annual for perennial crops
- Water leases but no sales
- Trading water means drilling a new well and that can impact existing wells
- No exporting water
- Set quotas on “big ag” to reduce impacts
- 130 families (5- to 30-acre parcels) – they might want to trade water for dollars
- Incentivize people to monitor their wells real-time and make data available
- Credits for creating recharge
- Could create a system for exploitation
- Sounds like cap & trade
- Use a word other than “sell”
- Can you do this with external funds?
- Can confine trades to local areas
- Can you trade between agricultural and urban uses?
- Conservation easements
- Equity issue with taxes and fees
- State is part of the problem because they don’t deliver the water they are supposed to
- Lots of places have quotas: pump tax? No grandfathering in
- Need legislative help early
- Vacant land is disenfranchised
- Some problems in Australia when they did this
- Doesn’t agree with saying “no sell” this is the basis of the economy
- Water banking is okay for our own local use
- Should be able to retire lands in the Red Zone and trade the water somewhere else in the basin
- Potential – but be careful
- Find a way for City to use all Nacimiento water and recycled water and pump less

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## Station 4 Conservation Measures

Hosted by Juliet McKenna, Montgomery; Scott Duffield, Heritage Ranch CSD; and Blaine Reely, San Miguel CSD

### Ideas from the small groups related to conservation measures:

- Moisture monitoring
- Pump more = pay more
- Rural residential role(s)
- Conservation guidelines
- Incentivize crop conversion and/or removal
- Incentivize conservation
- Prioritize use of source(s): Nacimiento Water
- Maximize Nacimiento Water
- Development (residential and agricultural) control
- Management areas
- Watershed management
- Forest management
- Promote healthy soils (pastures, root crops), carbon farming
- Business, industrial, commercial conservation incentives
- Waterways management (vegetation)
- Gray water, residential
- Irrigation with recycled water
- Upgrade to tertiary
- Conservation easements
- Development rights
- Eliminate salt use in water softeners
- Water softener buy-back program
- Live within our means
- Urban conservation ordinance/ code compliance
- Urban rainwater capture
- Consider agricultural conservation measures from others (countries)
- Agricultural technology opportunities for continued progression
- Incentivize projects on agricultural property
- Urban soil management/composting
- Conservation measures for rural residential
- Meter all large users, any new well
- Educate the public/raise awareness
- Incentives for efficient fixtures

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