

“State Guidance for Hazard Mitigation Planning”

Ken Topping, FAICP

Cal Poly SLO

SHMT Meeting

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Prior State Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance Examples

- Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plans (adopted by Cal OES director 2007, 2010, 2013) – part of the State Emergency Plan (SEP)
- General Plan Safety Element law – requires local government adoption of a general plan safety element for protection “from unreasonable risks associated with the effects of various geologic hazards, flooding, and wildland and urban fires”
- AB 2140 (2006) General Plan Integration – provides financial incentives for co-adoption of LHMP with Safety Element
- International Building Code – sets mandatory local building code structural, fire, and other safety parameters
- Subdivision Map Act and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – both include prohibitions of harm to people and environment

Prior State Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance Examples (cont.)

- Earthquake Fault Zones Mapping Act (1971) – prohibits development over earthquake faults
- SB 574 (1986) Unreinforced Masonry Law – requires mitigation of URM buildings
- Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (1990) – requires mitigation of shaking, landslide, and liquefaction hazards
- Public Resources Code Sections 4290 and 4291 (1991) –development standards for CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRAs)
- AB 162 (2007) Flooding and the General Plan – strengthens flood mapping requirements for general plan land use, housing safety, and conservation elements
- Fire Hazard Severity Zones (2008) – requires application of mitigation strategies to reduce wildfire risk in Wildland-Urban-Interface (WUI) zones in SRAs and Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs)
- SB 1241 (2012) Wildfire Mitigation (SRAs) – strengthens general plan, CEQA, and subdivision mitigation consistent with PRC 4290 and 4291
- Bottom line: little monitoring of outcomes, much unfinished business

New Drought and Climate Change Mitigation Guidance

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014) – establishes groundwater basin management planning overseen by the state
- SB 379 (2015) General Plan and Climate Change – Requires safety element updates to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to cities and counties
- SB 246 (2015) Climate Change Adaptation – established statewide Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to coordinate regional, local and state climate adaptation strategies

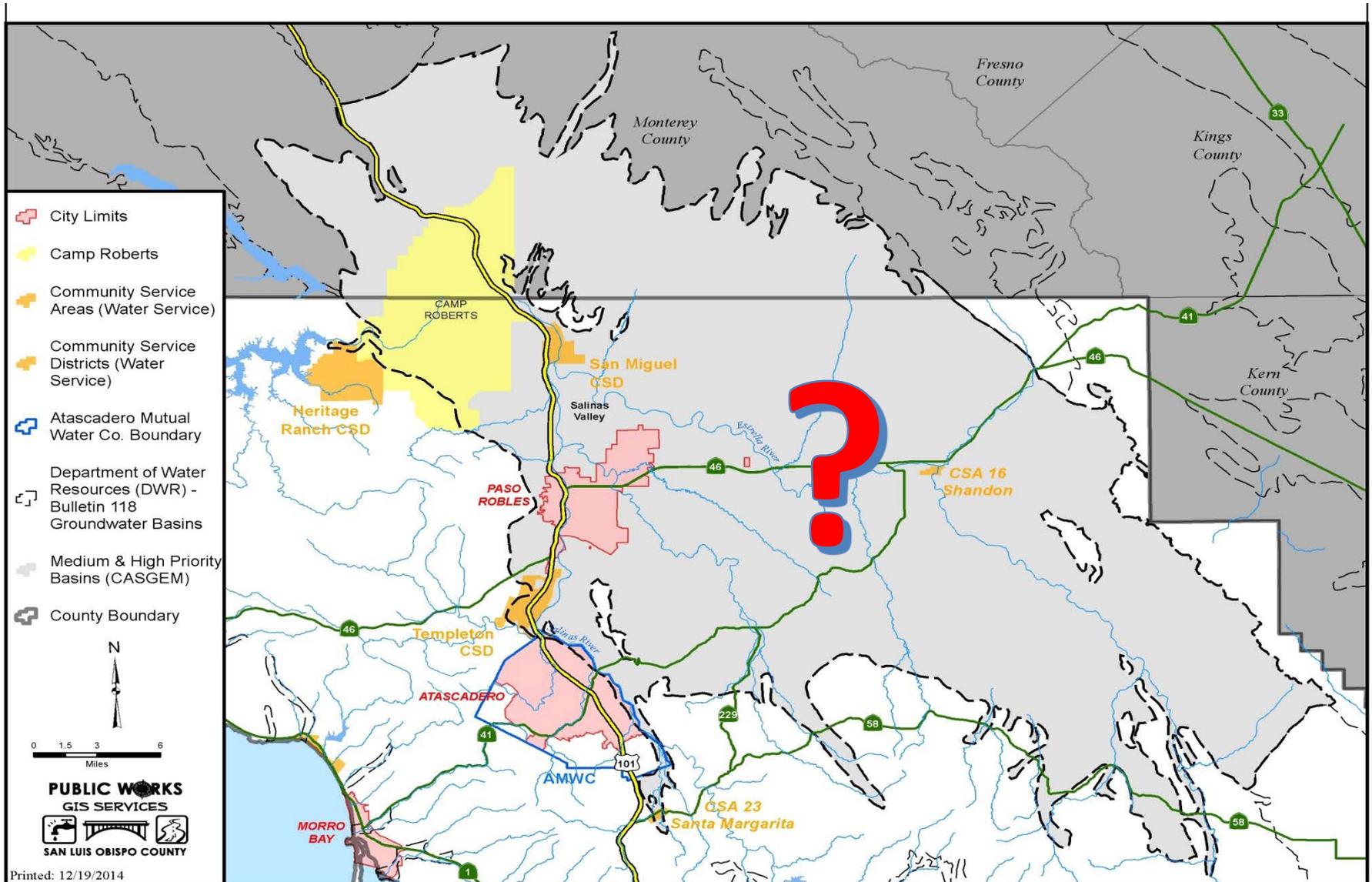
Recent Drought and Water Initiatives

- Policy response to changing drought/water resource concepts – from short-term conservation to long-term management
- Governor's January 2014 drought emergency proclamation
 - Called on citizens to reduce water use by 20%
 - Subsequent April 2015 executive order directed urban water agencies to reduce water use by 25%
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014):
 - Organizes major statewide effort for long-term planning for groundwater capture, monitoring and conservation
 - Reshapes piecemeal water development policies into organized basin management system
 - Requires establishment of Groundwater Sustainability Authorities (GSAs) by 2018 and Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by 2020

Implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- State boards and agencies
 - Major new responsibilities to set water use reduction targets, intervention measures
- Water agencies
 - Substantial changes in business practice brought on by mandated water conservation targets
- Private water users
 - Modification of traditional water rights, accessibility, and use practices in response to state intervention
- Local implementation examples: SLO County case study
 - Board of Supervisors Urgency Ordinance of August 2013
 - Countywide Water Conservation Program – one-for-one water offset and related measures
 - AB 2453 – Paso Robles Basin Water District – failed measure

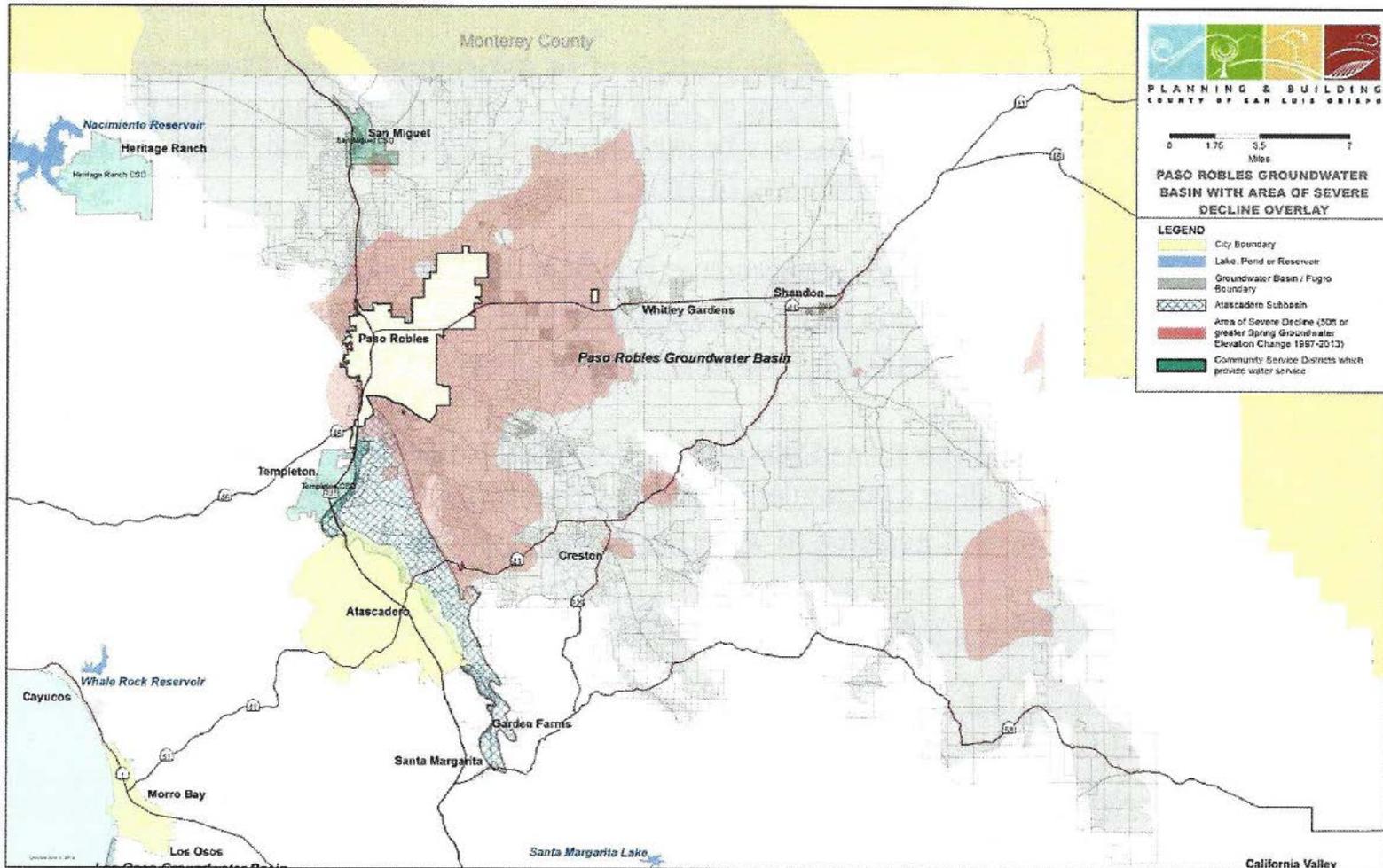
Governance Structure Considerations



Source: Courtney Howard

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Red = Areas of Severe Decline



Urgency Ordinance

- San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors adopted Urgency Ordinance in August 2013:
 - Limiting new groundwater pumping from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
 - Identified 1:1 Agricultural Water Offset as the best implementation tool to process new requests for irrigated agriculture within the PRGWB (rejected 2:1 offset option)
- Board also directed planning staff to develop an interim ordinance requiring a Agricultural Water Offset to fill the gap between Urgency Ordinance expiration on August 27, 2015, and adoption of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan(GSP) for the Paso Robles Basin by 2020

Countywide Water Conservation Program

- Developed by Planning and Building Department staff to comply with the 2013 Urgency Ordinance
- Creates a comprehensive countywide water conservation program (Water Neutral New Development) for areas with stressed groundwater basins, including Paso Robles basin
- Provides framework for new agricultural and rural water users to balance, or offset on a 1:1 basis, future water demands with water savings (credits)
- Includes detailed water conservation measures through revisions to
 - Agricultural Element and Conservation and Open Space Elements of General Plan
 - Health and Sanitation Ordinance
 - Building and Construction Ordinance
 - Land Use Ordinance
- Approved by county planning commission
- Adopted by Board of Supervisors

Assembly Bill 2453 (Achadjian, 2014)

- Provided for formation of a new Paso Robles Basin Water District
- 9 member board – various landowner interests
- Authorized the district to develop, adopt, and implement a groundwater management plan
 - Collect data
 - Require conservation
 - Impose extraction charges (Prop. 218)
 - Establish extraction allocations
 - Implement SGMA
- Approved by Local Agency Formation Commission
- Failed in a vote of the people

Issues and Implications

- GSP for Paso Basin must be adopted by 2020
- Overdrafts will increase without effective action
- Situation is serious, with long-term economic and environmental consequences
- SLO County can:
 - Hold another Prop. 218 vote
 - Redirect other funds
 - Relinquish basin management to state
- Management of the basin will require:
 - Metering
 - Pumping restrictions
 - Aquifer recharge

Lessons Learned

- Water rights, supply, distribution, and management have fundamentally changed in California
- The SLO County experiment to date represents an effort to apply advanced thinking on water conservation planning
- GSAs and GSPs will evolve here and elsewhere on a dynamic basis, taking many different forms
- A key to progress is groundwater basin monitoring, planning, and management
- Continuing drought challenges call for closer integration of planning for water resources and land use
- Planners and emergency managers are challenged to integrate water supply, distribution, and management issues into day-to-day practice
- Takeaway for SHMP: ever widening circle of broader content needs more systematic and thorough progress monitoring