



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Notice of Board of Directors Meeting

To be held at **4:00 p.m. on September 23, 2026**

at the Centennial Park Norris Room (600 Nickerson Dr, Paso Robles, California 93446)

PRAGA will make available, as a convenience to the public, virtual access to the meeting via Zoom, which access may be suspended at any time due to technological or other reasons. To ensure the ability to observe or participate in the meeting, members of the public should attend in person.

Virtual Access

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98961669951>
 Webinar ID: 989 6166 9951
 Call-in: +1(646)931-3860,,98961669951#

Remote Conference Locations:

600 Nickerson Drive
 Paso Robles, CA 93446

110 Mather Road
 McCall, ID 83638

Member Agency

Shandon-San Juan Water District
 Estrella El-Pomar Creston Water District
 City of Paso Robles
 County of San Luis Obispo

Directors

Matt Turrentine, Chair
 Hilary Graves, Vice Chair
 John Hamon
 Bruce Gibson

Alternates

Ray Shady
 Zach Merkel
 Kris Beal
 Heather Moreno

AGENDA

September 23, 2026

NOTE: The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to participate in the meeting of the Paso Authority are encouraged to request such accommodation in advance of the meeting from Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385.

1. Call to Order ([Turrentine](#))
2. Pledge of Allegiance ([Turrentine](#))
3. Roll Call ([Blakslee](#))
4. Meeting Protocols ([Blakslee](#))
5. Consent Agenda ([Turrentine](#))
 - a. Approval of July 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of July and August 2026 Financial Reports
 - c. Adopt Resolution to Approve Proposed Amendments to the Conflict-of-Interest Code and Authorize Staff to Submit to the County for Review
 - d. Approve Revised 2026 Board Meeting Calendar

ACTION ITEMS

6. Approve a Contract for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Technical Support Services ([Blakslee](#))
7. Update on GSP Implementation and 5-Year Strategic Plan ([Blakslee](#))
8. Evaluation of Projects/Management Actions and Draft Grant Project List ([Blakslee](#))

REPORT ITEMS

9. Executive Director Report ([Blakslee](#))
10. Update on DWR Review of WY 2024-25 Annual Report ([Blakslee](#))
11. Public Comment – Items not on Agenda ([Turrentine](#)) (3 min/speaker)

CLOSED SESSION

12. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
 (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)) Significant exposure to litigation: 1 case
13. Director Comments / Future Agenda Items ([Directors](#))
14. Adjourn



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 5a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Meeting Minutes

Recommendation

Approve the meeting minutes.

Discussion

The draft Regular Meeting minutes from the July 22, 2026, Board of Director's Meeting is provided as **Attachment 1** for the Board's consideration of approval.

* * *

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Regular Meeting

July 22, 2026

Draft Meeting Minutes

Present:

Matt Turrentine, *Chair*
Zach Merkel, *Alternate*
John Hamon
Bruce Gibson

Shandon-San Juan Water District GSA
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District GSA
City of Paso Robles GSA
County of San Luis Obispo

Staff:

Claire Collins, Legal Counsel
Taylor Blakslee, Executive Director

1. Call to Order

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Chair Matt Turrentine called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Turrentine.

3. Roll Call

Mr. Blakslee called roll (shown above).

4. Meeting Protocols

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the meeting protocols.

5. Consent Agenda

Mr. Blakslee reported that the consent agenda includes June 24, 2026, minutes and June 2026 financial report for consideration for approval.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comments: None.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.

MOTION

Director Hamon moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Gibson and it passed unanimously.

6. Update on Fallowed Land Registry and Small Farm Assistance Program

County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director Blaine Reely provided an overview of the Small Farm Assistance Program and provided an update on the lands enrolled in the Fallowed Land Registry.

Public Comments: Paul Hoover, Dean Porter, Ann Myrhe, Murray Powell.

7. Action Items

a. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Landowner Fee Study Appeals

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the appeals process and reported that PRAGA received 30 appeals and is requesting board approval of staff recommendations for the remaining 13 appeals.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Jon Cagliero, Paul Hoover.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.

Legal Counsel Collins clarified that this item addressed the appeal determinations only and that the following item would adopt the final fee schedule and authorize tax roll collection.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to approve the staff recommendation for 13 appeals as shown in the packet. The motion was seconded by Director Hamon. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES:	Gibson, Hamon, Merkel, Turrentine
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
RECUSE:	None

b. Approve Resolution 2026-02 to Adopting the FY 2026-27 Schedule of Groundwater Sustainability Fees to be Placed on the Tax Roll

Mr. Blakslee presented the final Fiscal Year 2026-27 groundwater sustainability fee schedule and requested authorization to submit the charges to the County of San Luis Obispo for collection through the secured property tax roll.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comments: Murray Powell.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to Adopt Resolution No. 2026-02 Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Schedule of Groundwater Sustainability Fees and requesting that the County of San Luis Obispo collect the fees through the secured property tax roll and direct staff to return to board with total amount sent to tax roll. The motion was seconded by Director Hamon. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Gibson, Hamon, Merkel, Turrentine
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None

c. Authorize Agreement with County of San Luis Obispo for Collection of Groundwater Fee

Mr. Blakslee presented the proposed agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo for collection of the groundwater sustainability fees through the secured property tax roll.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to Authorize Agreement with County of San Luis Obispo for Collection of Groundwater Fee. The motion was seconded by Director Hamon. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Gibson, Hamon, Merkel, Turrentine
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None

d. Authorize Loan Agreement with Shandon San Juan Water District for Short-Term Gap Funding for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Mr. Blakslee reported on the need for short-term gap funding until groundwater fee revenues are received through the property tax roll and requested board authorization to approve \$300,000 loan agreement with the Shandon San Juan Water District and noted that a reserve policy would be brought forward to reduce future cash flow gaps.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comments: Murray Powell.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to authorize an agreement with Shandon-San Juan Water District to secure gap funding for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The motion was seconded by Director Hamon. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Gibson, Merkel, Hamon
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: Turrentine

e. Authorize Executive Director to Execute the Land IQ Contract Subject to General Counsel’s Approval

Mr. Blakslee presented the proposed Land IQ contract for continued evapotranspiration and crop-mapping services and requested authorization to execute the contract.

Joel Kimmelshue, Land IQ, responded to questions regarding the proposed services and data products.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comments: Jon Cagliero, Paul Hoover, Steve Carter, Murray Powell.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comment.

MOTION

Director Gibson moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Land IQ, subject to General Counsel approval. The motion was seconded by Director Hamon. A roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Gibson, Merkel, Hamon

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSE: Turrentine

8. Update on GSP Implementation

Mr. Blakslee provided an update on ongoing Groundwater Sustainability Plan implementation activities.

The board directed staff to issue an Request for Proposals to solicit a technical firm to support Annual Report development, monitoring network evaluation, and other technical items listed in the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget.

9. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Jon Cagliero.

10. Director Comments / Future Agenda

Director Gibson suggested staff consider impacts or process if fallowed land is un-registered.

11. Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Blakslee reported that scheduled meeting is on August 26, 2026.

12. Adjourn at 5:33 p.m.



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 5b

FROM: Jacqueline Harris, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of July and August 2026 Financial Reports

Recommendation

Approve financial reports for July and August 2026.

Discussion

The financial reports for July 2026 and August 2026 are provided as **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**, respectively.

* * *



The summary of invoices below is presented for Board consent. Payment of invoices is expected to occur by August 31, 2026.

Vendor/Consultant	Invoice Billing Period	Invoice Total
Confluence Engineering Solutions	June 2026	\$463.75
Hallmark Group	July 2026	\$18,827.40
Hanson Bridgett	July 2026	\$12,947.78
Land IQ	July 2026	\$1,637.50
Total		\$33,876.43

The Authority's bank balance at J.P. Morgan Chase was \$104,874 as of July 31, 2026.



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

July 2026

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through July 31, 2026

Statement of Net Position

Current Assets		
Cash - J.P. Morgan Chase (<i>non-interest bearing checking</i>)	\$	104,874
Prepaid Insurance		4,532
Total Assets	\$	109,406
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$	33,876
Accrued Expenses	\$	-
Total Liabilities	\$	33,876
Net Position		
Unrestricted	\$	75,530
Total Net Position	\$	75,530

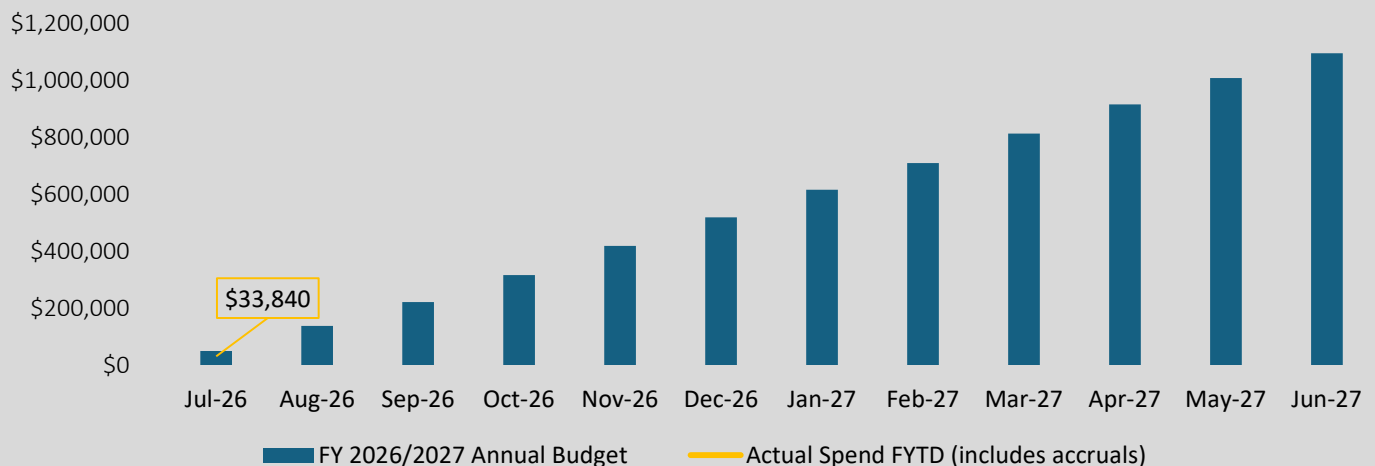
Statement of Change in Net Position With Budget Variance

	Actual ¹	Budget ²	Variance
Revenue			
Member Agency Funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenses			
Contracted Administrator/ED	\$ 18,640	\$ 18,000	\$ 640
Legal Counsel	12,633	12,000	633
Public Education and Outreach	-	3,000	(3,000)
Technical Consulting (<i>Land IQ - Data Management and Water Usage</i>)	1,638	9,585	(7,947)
Technical Consulting (<i>On-Call</i>)	-	1,650	(1,650)
Insurance	412	420	(8)
Office Expense and Travel	517	-	517
Contingency	-	8,300	(8,300)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 33,840	\$ 52,955	\$ (19,115)
Change in Net Position	\$ (33,840)	\$ (52,955)	\$ 19,115

¹ Actual column includes accruals (if any).

² The annual budget is allocated throughout the current fiscal year in the months the actual spending is expected to occur.

Cumulative FY 2026/2027 Budget With FYTD Actuals

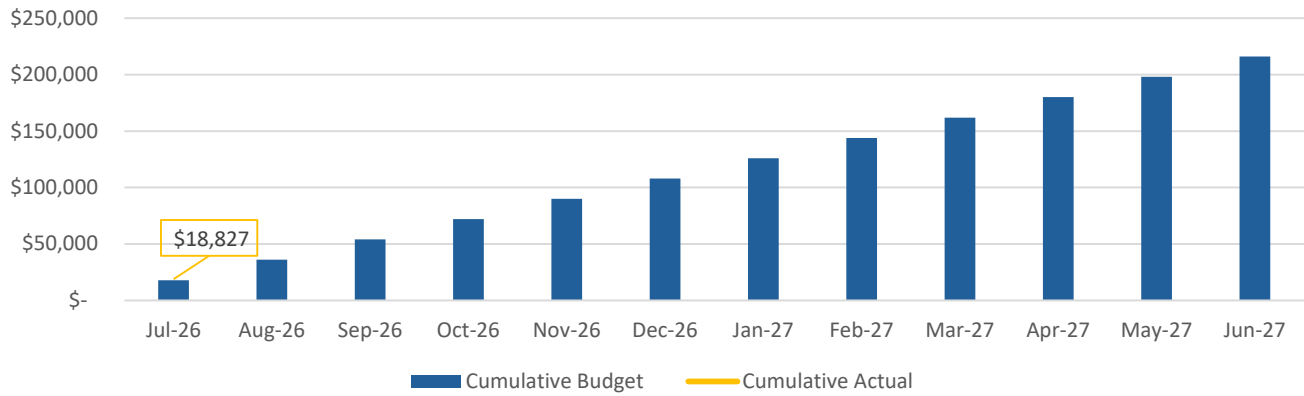


Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Primary Contracts

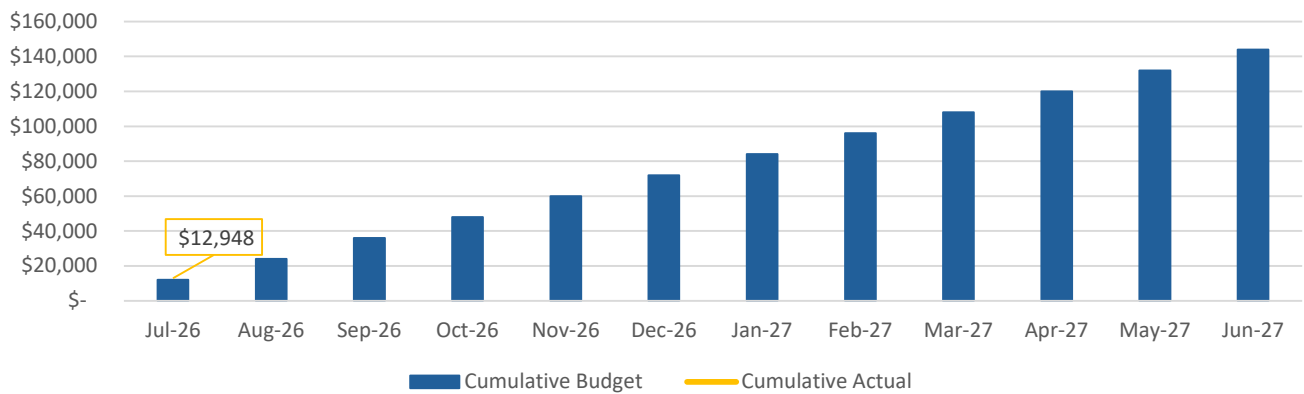
Hallmark Group

FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Hanson Bridgett

FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Receipts and Disbursements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through July 31, 2026

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Number	Name	Amount
			Beginning Balance Cash	\$ 185,720.02
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Hallmark Group	(19,114.23)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(19,439.50)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Land IQ	(15,670.00)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Golden State Risk Management Authority	(4,944.22)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	SCI Consulting Group	(21,662.65)
7/31/2026	Service Charge		Chase Bank	(15.00)
				\$ 104,874.42

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Accounts Payable
As of July 31, 2026

Name	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 And Over	Total
Confluence Engineering Solutions	\$ 464	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 464
Hallmark Group	18,827	-	-	-	-	18,827
Hanson Bridgett LLP	12,948	-	-	-	-	12,948
Land IQ	1,637	-	-	-	-	1,637
Total	\$ 33,876	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,876

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Annual Budget *(Approved by the Board of Directors March 25, 2026)*
Fiscal Year 2026/2027

	FY 26/27 Budget	FYTD Spend	Remaining Budget
Operating Expenses			
Annual Report	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000
GSP 5th Year Evaluation Comments	10,000	-	10,000
Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance	140,860	-	140,860
Well Verification and Registration Program	7,000	-	7,000
GW Fee Billing and Collection	40,000	-	40,000
Grant Development	60,000	-	60,000
Contracted Administrator/ED	216,000	18,640	197,360
Legal Counsel	144,000	12,633	131,367
Public Education and Outreach	35,000	-	35,000
Technical Consulting <i>(Land IQ - Data Management and Water Usage)</i>	115,000	1,638	113,362
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI - Funding Mechanism)</i>	50,000	-	50,000
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI - Fee Administration)</i>	30,000	-	30,000
Technical Consulting <i>(On-Call)</i>	20,000	-	20,000
Audit Fees	16,960	-	16,960
Insurance	5,040	412	4,628
Website Management	6,000	-	6,000
Office Expense and Travel	-	517	(517)
Contingency (Reserve)	99,586	-	99,586
Total Operating Budget	\$ 1,095,446	\$ 33,840	\$ 1,061,606



The summary of invoices below is presented for Board consent. Payment of invoices is expected to occur by September 30, 2026.

Vendor/Consultant	Invoice Billing Period	Invoice Total
Hallmark Group	August 2026	\$12,825.20
Hanson Bridgett	August 2026	\$10,905.00
Land IQ - Appeals	August 2026	\$921.25
Land IQ – Evapotranspiration Estimates	September 2026	\$8,908.66
Total		\$33,560.11

The Authority's bank balance at J.P. Morgan Chase was \$62,084 as of August 31, 2026.



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

August 2026

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through August 31, 2026

Statement of Net Position

Current Assets	
Cash - J.P. Morgan Chase (non-interest bearing checking)	\$ 62,084
Prepaid Insurance	4,120
Total Assets	\$ 66,204
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 24,651
Accrued Expenses	\$ -
Total Liabilities	\$ 24,651
Net Position	
Unrestricted	\$ 41,553
Total Net Position	\$ 41,553

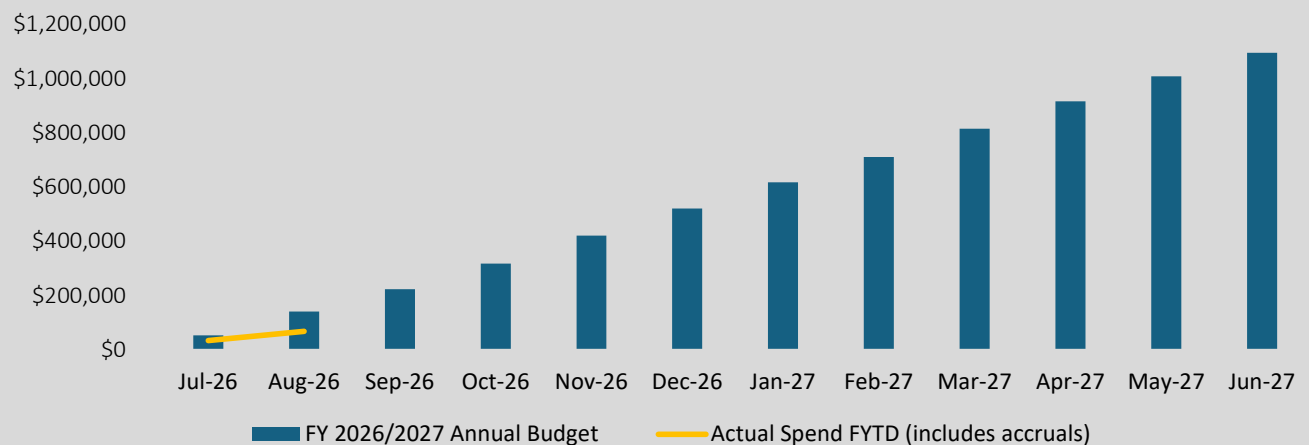
Statement of Change in Net Position With Budget Variance

	Actual ¹	Budget ²	Variance
Revenue			
Member Agency Funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Expenses			
Well Verification and Registration Program	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ (500)
GW Fee Billing and Collection	-	4,000	(4,000)
Contracted Administrator/ED	30,903	36,000	(5,097)
Legal Counsel	23,527	24,000	(473)
Public Education and Outreach	-	6,000	(6,000)
Technical Consulting (Land IQ - Data Management and Water Usag	11,467	19,170	(7,703)
Technical Consulting (SCI - Fee Administration)	-	30,000	(30,000)
Technical Consulting (On-Call)	-	3,300	(3,300)
Insurance	824	840	(16)
Office Expense and Travel	1,096	-	1,096
Contingency	-	16,600	(16,600)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 67,817	\$ 140,410	\$ (72,593)
Change in Net Position	\$ (67,817)	\$ (140,410)	\$ 72,593

¹ Actual column includes accruals (if any).

² The annual budget is allocated throughout the current fiscal year in the months the actual spending is expected to occur.

Cumulative FY 2026/2027 Budget With FYTD Actuals

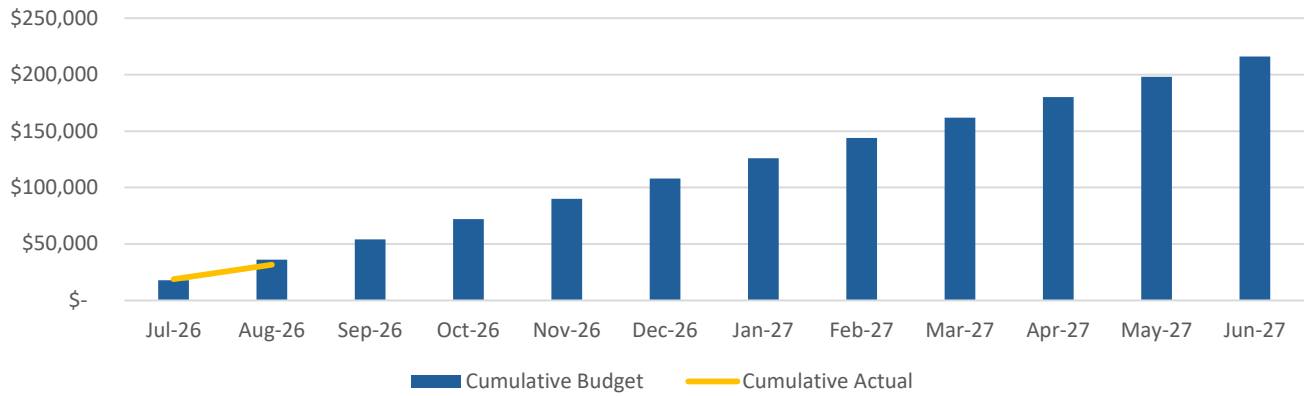


Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Primary Contracts

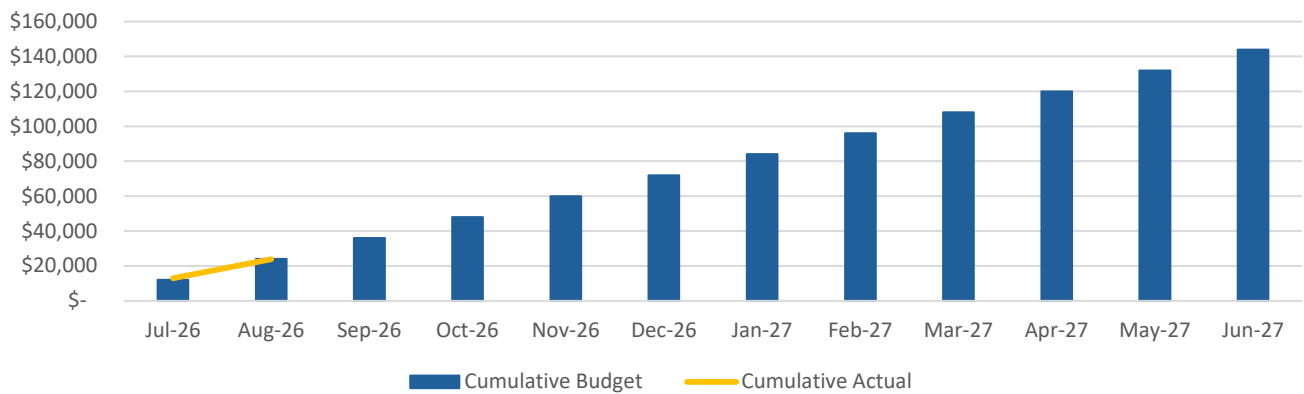
Hallmark Group

FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Hanson Bridgett

FYTD Budget-to-Actual



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Receipts and Disbursements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through August 31, 2026

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Number	Name	Amount
			Beginning Balance Cash	\$ 185,720.02
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Hallmark Group	(19,114.23)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(19,439.50)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Land IQ	(15,670.00)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	Golden State Risk Management Authority	(4,944.22)
7/23/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	Payment	SCI Consulting Group	(21,662.65)
7/31/2026	Service Charge		Chase Bank	(15.00)
8/5/2026	Service Charge		Chase Bank	(5.00)
8/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	ACH	Confluence Engineering Solutions	(463.75)
8/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	ACH	Hallmark Group	(18,827.40)
8/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	ACH	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(12,947.78)
8/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)	ACH	Land IQ	(10,546.16)
				<u>\$ 62,084.33</u>

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Accounts Payable

As of August 31, 2026

Name	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 And Over	Total
Hallmark Group	\$ 12,825	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,825
Hanson Bridgett LLP	10,905	-	-	-	-	10,905
Land IQ	921	-	-	-	-	921
Total	\$ 24,651	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,651

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Annual Budget *(Approved by the Board of Directors March 25, 2026)*
Fiscal Year 2026/2027

	FY 26/27 Budget	FYTD Spend	Remaining Budget
Operating Expenses			
Annual Report	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000
GSP 5th Year Evaluation Comments	10,000	-	10,000
Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance	140,860	-	140,860
Well Verification and Registration Program	7,000	-	7,000
GW Fee Billing and Collection	40,000	-	40,000
Grant Development	60,000	-	60,000
Contracted Administrator/ED	216,000	30,903	185,097
Legal Counsel	144,000	23,527	120,473
Public Education and Outreach	35,000	-	35,000
Technical Consulting <i>(Land IQ - Data Management and Water Usage)</i>	115,000	11,467	103,533
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI - Funding Mechanism)</i>	50,000	-	50,000
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI - Fee Administration)</i>	30,000	-	30,000
Technical Consulting <i>(On-Call)</i>	20,000	-	20,000
Audit Fees	16,960	-	16,960
Insurance	5,040	824	4,216
Website Management	6,000	-	6,000
Office Expense and Travel	-	1,096	(1,096)
Contingency (Reserve)	99,586	-	99,586
Total Operating Budget	\$ 1,095,446	\$ 67,817	\$ 1,027,629



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution to Approve Proposed Amendments to the Conflict-of-Interest Code and Authorize Staff to Submit to the County for Review

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. 2026-003 to Approve Proposed Amendments to the Conflict-of-Interest Code and Authorize Staff to Submit to the County for Review

Discussion

The Political Reform Act (Government Code section 81000 et seq.) requires state and local agencies to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code. The code identifies the officials, employees, and consultants who must disclose specified financial interests on a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Board adopted its Conflict of Interest Code on September 24, 2025. Government Code section 87306.5 requires PRAGA to review its code every even-numbered year and amend it when necessary. Legal counsel reviewed the code and provided proposed revisions to the Conflict of Interest Code shown in Exhibit A of the resolution.

Resolution No. 2026-003 (**Attachment 1**) approves the proposed amendments and authorizes staff to submit the amended code to the County for review and approval.

* * *

**PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-003**

**AMENDING PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY’S
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

A. The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (“**PRAGA**”) is a joint powers authority formed by the City of El Paso de Robles, the County of San Luis Obispo, the Shandon-San Juan Water District, and the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (collectively, “**Paso Subbasin GSAs**”) to perform groundwater sustainability plan implementation and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, California Water Code § 10720 et seq. (“**SGMA**”) administrative and regulatory compliance functions within the Paso Subbasin GSAs’ combined service area in the Paso Robles Area Subbasin.

B. On September 24, 2025, the PRAGA Board of Directors approved a Conflict of Interest Code (“Code”) as required by the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Gov. Code §§ 81000 et seq.).

C. Government Code Section 87306.5 requires PRAGA to review its Code every even-numbered year and revise it if necessary.

D. Legal counsel and staff have reviewed the current Code and have determined that the Code, which lists the designated positions who must disclose their economic interests on an annual basis and disclosure categories for such positions, should be updated to reflect current staffing positions and organization.

E. Legal counsel and staff recommend adopting the amendments as reflected in the Code, attached as Exhibit A.

**Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
RESOLVES as follows:**

1. The Board of Directors hereby adopts the amended Conflict of Interest Code, attached as Exhibit B and presented to the Board of Directors.

2. The Board of Directors hereby directs the Executive Director to transmit a copy of the amended Conflict of Interest Code to the San Luis Obispo County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for the Board of Supervisors’ review and approval, and to make any revisions that may be required by the County for approval of the Code.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of September, 2026 upon motion by Director _____, seconded by Director _____, with the following vote:

Matt Turrentine, Chair
Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Exhibit ACONFLICT OF INTEREST CODEPASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITYAmended September 23, 2026

PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

_____ The Political Reform Act (Government Code §81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs. §18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code that may be incorporated by reference as a public agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the Fair Political Practices Commission may amend the standard code to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act.

_____ The terms of Title 2 California Code of Regulations, ~~Section~~§ 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, are hereby incorporated by reference. ~~This~~ regulation and the attached Appendix (designating positions and establishing disclosure categories) will constitute the ~~e~~C~~on~~flict of ~~i~~I~~n~~terest ~~e~~C~~o~~de of the **Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority** (“**Authority**”).

_____ Individuals holding designated positions ~~shall~~will file their statements of economic interests with the Authority, which will make the statements available for public inspection and reproduction. (Gov. Code ~~See~~§81008~~;~~). All statements will be retained by the Authority.

APPENDIX
DESIGNATED POSITIONS ~~AND~~
~~DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES~~

<u>Designated Positions</u> <u>Categories</u>	<u>Assigned Disclosure</u>
Board of Directors and Alternates	1, 2, 3
Executive Director	1, 2, 3
General Counsel ⁺	1, 2, 3
<u>Technical Consultant</u>	<u>1, 2, 3</u>
Consultants/New Positions	*

⁺~~Positions currently filled by outside consultants who serve in a staff capacity.~~

*Consultants/New ~~p~~Positions ~~shall be~~ included in the list of designated positions and ~~shall will~~ disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the ~~e~~Code₂ subject to the following limitation:

The Executive Director may determine in writing that a particular consultant or new position, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. That written determination must include a description of the consultant’s or new position’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Executive Director’s determination is a public record and must be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this ~~e~~Conflict of ~~i~~Interest ~~e~~Code (Gov. Code §81008; ~~2 CCR 18734, subd. (a)-~~).

I. DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES:

Category 1 (Income from Vendors)

A designated employee in this category must report all investments and business positions in business entities and sources of income, including receipt of gifts, loans, and travel payments, from any source that provides leased facilities, services, supplies, materials or equipment of the type utilized by the Authority.

Category 2 (Real Property ~~w~~Within Jurisdiction)

A designated employee in this category must report all interests in real property located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the Authority or within two miles of the Authority, including any leasehold, beneficial or ownership interest or option to acquire such interest in real property.

Category 3 (Income from Sources Subject to Authority Regulation or from Claimants)

A designated employee in this category must report all investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including receipt of gifts, loans, and travel payments, from entities and sources that are subject to the regulatory, permit, or licensing authority of the Authority, or that have filed a claim or have a claim pending against the Authority.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE
PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Amended September 23, 2026

**PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE**

The Political Reform Act (Government Code §81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code of Regs. §18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code that may be incorporated by reference as a public agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the Fair Political Practices Commission may amend the standard code to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act.

The terms of Title 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission, are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendix (designating positions and establishing disclosure categories) will constitute the Conflict of Interest Code of the **Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority** ("**Authority**").

Individuals holding designated positions will file their statements of economic interests with the Authority, which will make the statements available for public inspection and reproduction (Gov. Code §81008). All statements will be retained by the Authority.

APPENDIX DESIGNATED POSITIONS

<u>Designated Positions</u>	<u>Disclosure Categories</u>
Board of Directors and Alternates	1, 2, 3
Executive Director	1, 2, 3
General Counsel	1, 2, 3
Technical Consultant	1, 2, 3
Consultants/New Positions	*

*Consultants/New Positions are included in the list of designated positions and will disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the Code, subject to the following limitation:

The Executive Director may determine in writing that a particular consultant or new position, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to fully comply with the disclosure requirements in this section. That written determination must include a description of the consultant’s or new position’s duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Executive Director’s determination is a public record and must be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this Conflict of Interest Code (Gov. Code §81008).

DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

Category 1 (Income from Vendors)

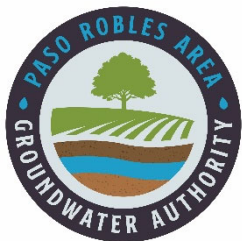
A designated employee in this category must report all investments and business positions in business entities and sources of income, including receipt of gifts, loans, and travel payments, from any source that provides leased facilities, services, supplies, materials or equipment of the type utilized by the Authority.

Category 2 (Real Property Within Jurisdiction)

A designated employee in this category must report all interests in real property located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the Authority or within two miles of the Authority, including any leasehold, beneficial or ownership interest or option to acquire such interest in real property.

Category 3 (Income from Sources Subject to Authority Regulation or from Claimants)

A designated employee in this category must report all investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including receipt of gifts, loans, and travel payments, from entities and sources that are subject to the regulatory, permit, or licensing authority of the Authority, or that have filed a claim or have a claim pending against the Authority.



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 5d

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Revised 2026 Board Meeting Calendar

Recommendation

Approve the revised 2026 board meeting calendar, canceling the October 28 and December 16 meetings and scheduling one meeting on November 18, 2026.

Discussion

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The adopted 2026 calendar includes meetings on October 28 and December 16.

Staff recommends canceling the October and December meetings and scheduling one meeting on November 18, 2026. The revised schedule will consolidate the remaining 2026 meetings into a single meeting and avoid conflicts with winter holidays. The adopted and revised fourth-quarter meeting calendars are provided in **Attachment 1**.

* * *

2026 Adopted PRAGA Meeting Calendar

Adopted Meeting Date

Holiday

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2026 Revised PRAGA Meeting Calendar

Proposed Meeting Date

Holiday

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve a Contract for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Technical Support Services

Recommendation

Execute a contract with Confluence Engineering Solution for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Technical Support Services.

Discussion

On July 22, 2026, the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) board directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from technical firms to develop Water Year 2025-2026 Annual Report, evaluate minimum threshold exceedances and the monitoring well network, and provide as-needed support for activities included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget.

The RFP was issued on August 19, 2026, with a submission deadline of September 9, 2026. PRAGA received four (4) proposals.

Following staff review and evaluation, staff recommend that the Board authorize execution of a contract with Confluence Engineering Solutions, subject to legal counsel review.

* * *



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 7

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on GSP Implementation

Recommendation

Board feedback requested.

Discussion

On July 22, 2026, the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Board discussed Project and Management Actions (PMAs) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation.

Staff convened an Informal Stakeholder Advisory Committee to review and provide feedback on PRAGA priorities through 2029, and staff's recommendation is provided in **Attachment 1** for board feedback/direction.

* * *

Update on GSP Implementation and 5-Year Strategic Plan

- **2025:** PRAGA formed to implement SGMA for four (4) GSAs.
- **2026:** Funding structure implemented to fund “minimal compliance” activities for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.
- GSP provides long-term implementation roadmap, but helpful to evaluate priorities and plan in smaller 5-year increments
- 5-year plans intended to inform basin priorities between periodic evaluation submittals and may assist in determining if GSP amendment needed.

Staff Recommendation: Continue required compliance activities through 2027-2029 while also planning for specific projects and pursuing grant funding as listed on the following slides.

Recommended PRAGA Priorities for 2027-2029

Compliance Activities

1. Submit Annual Reports
2. Address Monitoring Data Gaps
3. Perform Exceedance Investigations
4. Respond to DWR GSP Comments
5. Address Interconnected Surface Water BMPs
6. Implement Public Data Management System
7. Continue Public Engagement / Outreach

Key Projects / Management Actions

1. Implement Long-Term/Permanent Land Retirement Program (Fallowed Land Registry)
2. Implement Stormwater Capture Program
3. Address Ag Neutrality
4. Consider Nacimiento / City Recycled Water Project or Naci Water Sales Program
5. Update/Recalibrate Basin Model
6. Implement De Minimis Self-Certification
7. Consider Domestic Well Mitigation Program

1. Implement Long-Term/Permanent Land Retirement Program (Fallowed Land Registry)

- **Description/Purpose:** Build on the success of the fallowed registry program to implement long-term or permanent land retirement. Prioritize land retirement projects that are near areas with ongoing groundwater level impacts.
- **Timeline:** Pursue grant funding and begin implementation in 2028/29 if grant funding secured.
- **Funding:** Apply for DOC MLRP grant in early winter 26/27.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Program likely successful if incentives are meaningful. Conditions may not result in fallowed land being irrigated again in the foreseeable future.

2. Implement Stormwater Capture Program

Description/Purpose: Identify and develop projects to capture stormwater runoff for managed recharge, reducing reliance on groundwater pumping and increasing basin inflows. Target recharge near areas with ongoing groundwater level impacts.

- **Timeline:** To be developed in 2027 for implementation in winter 2027/28.
- **Funding:** Apply for DWR grant in early winter 26/27.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Priority project, pursue grant funding.

3. Address Ag Neutrality

- **Description/Purpose:** Evaluate and consider measures to ensure that the intention of the County ag offset ordinance (sunsets in 2028) to protect the Paso Basin from increased depletions are implemented.
- **Timeline:** Develop potential options in 2027 for implementation ahead of January 2028.
- **Funding:** PRAGA-funded.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Agree with guardrails on use given the finite resource of groundwater. Concerns with un-intended consequences of programs like the ag offset ordinance.

4. Consider Nacimiento / City Recycled Water Project or Naci Water Sales Program

- **Description/Purpose:** Evaluate expanding delivery or sales of Nacimiento surface water and/or city recycled water as an alternative supply to offset groundwater pumping within the basin, and potential delivery to areas with ongoing groundwater level impacts.
- **Timeline:** Update blended feasibility in 2027 with Nacimiento price of water and consider potential Nacimiento water sales program.
- **Funding:** Pursue grant funding for infrastructure components if Nacimiento water price favorable to a project.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Reevaluate project costs by incorporating grant funding for projects previously deemed too expensive. Stakeholders need to be willing to invest in infrastructure to move forward with water supply projects.

5. Update/Recalibrate Basin Model

- **Description/Purpose:** Update and recalibrate the basin's hydrogeologic model using updated data to update the sustainable yield and evaluation of projects and management actions.
- **Timeline:** Update model by the end of 2027.
- **Funding:** Pursue grant funding or consider funding via PRAGA if not successful with grant funds.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Important project to understand basin conditions/assess sustainability and identify need for potential management actions.

6. Implement De Minimis Self-Certification

- **Description/Purpose:** Develop and establish a process for groundwater users extracting less than 2 acre-feet of groundwater to certify their de minimis status. Allows staff to exclude de minimis users from fees, if directed by the Board, and allows for more completed technical analyses of impacts to beneficial users in assessing projects and management actions and sustainability progress.
- **Timeline:** Implement prior to FY 27-28.
- **Funding:** PRAGA funded.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** General support.

7. Consider Domestic Well Mitigation Program

- **Description/Purpose:** Evaluate a domestic well mitigation program framework and determine next steps.
- **Timeline:** Evaluate a program framework in FY 26-27.
- **Funding:** Funded through existing DWR SGMA grant.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Concerns with implementing a program if a de minimis user might be charged a fee to account for the benefit.



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 10

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on DWR Review of WY 2024-25 Annual Report

Recommendation

None – information only.

Discussion

The Paso Robles Subbasin Water Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025) Annual Report was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the April 1, 2026 deadline.

On August 5, 2026, DWR completed its review and issued a letter, which is provided as **Attachment 1**.

* *



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street, 8th Floor | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

August 5, 2026

Blaine Reely
Paso Robles Area Subbasin – Plan Manager
1055 Monterey Street, Suite D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
breely@co.slo.ca.us

RE: Review of Annual Report for the Paso Robles Area Subbasin, Water Year 2025

Dear Blaine Reely,

As the basin point of contact for the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) in the Paso Robles Area Subbasin (Subbasin), this letter is to inform you that the Department of Water Resources (Department) has completed the review of the annual report for the Subbasin for Water Year 2025.

Following the adoption of a GSP and annually thereafter, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that an annual report be submitted to the Department by April 1 (Wat. Code § 10728). Once an annual report has been submitted, the Department is required to notify the submitting groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) of receipt within 20 days, review the information to determine whether the basin's GSP is being implemented in a manner likely to achieve its established sustainability goal, and notify the GSA in writing if additional information is required (23 CCR § 355.8).

This annual report review letter does not address plan implementation because the Department is currently reviewing your GSP implementation as part of its periodic review of the GSP, which, in contrast to annual report reviews that consider information about only one year, will look at the periodic evaluation and the collective annual reports that provide the Department with numerous years of reporting data to better assess trends, issues or conditions of concern in the Subbasin, and whether GSP implementation remains on track to achieve sustainability.

The Department noted that the annual report provided an update on all the applicable sustainable management criteria for the basin, as required by GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 356.2). SGMA requires that the GSA continue to include this information in the next annual report, including a description of progress towards implementing the GSP for each of the applicable sustainability indicators.

The Department requires that the GSA provide implementation updates on the SGMA Portal Projects and Management Actions (PMA) Module during each water year. The Department noted that implementation updates on all the PMAs were not provided on the SGMA Portal PMA Module, as required by GSP Regulations (23 CCR § 356.2). The

Department will require that the GSAs provide implementation updates on the SGMA Portal PMA Module during each water year. Implementation updates provide a way to report and track progress such as status, accrued benefits, and funding updates on the implementation of the basin's PMAs. Reporting accurate, detailed, and measurable information in the SGMA Portal PMA Module (such as current status, a time-table for the accrual of benefits, and funding updates on implementation) clearly demonstrates any progress in implementing projects and management actions to the Department since the previous annual report.

The Department's Monitoring Network Module indicates that the GSAs did not perform monitoring on one (1) of the representative monitoring site (RMS) locations for the seasonal high period in Water Year 2025, which represents 3% of the total monitoring network. Absence of monitoring data from RMS locations may affect a GSA's ability to evaluate whether undesirable results are occurring and could affect a GSA's ability to assess or demonstrate whether implementation is meeting the sustainability goal. Repeated failure to collect monitoring data from RMS locations may warrant the Department to formally request additional information from future annual reports (23 CCR § 355.8).

Please contact the assigned Department basin point-of-contact or sgmps@water.ca.gov if you have questions about this notice or the annual reporting process. The Department looks forward to receiving your Water Year 2026 Annual Report by April 1, 2027.

Thank You,



Keith Wallace, P.E.
Assistant Deputy Director
Sustainable Water Management

Dan & Erin Larson
6670 El Pomar Drive
Templeton, CA 93465-8638
805-881-3565
elpomar@yahoo.com

8/23/26

NOTICE TO CEASE AND DESIST

Re: Notice to Cease and Desist RE PRAGA FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Sustainability Fee (attached)

Dear Taylor Blakskee, et al.,

Our property taxes have already been paid to fully comply with SGMA's requirements.

PRAGA's FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Sustainability Fee upon our property is redundant, unnecessary, illegal, unlawful and unconstitutional.

If you do not cease the aforementioned Activity a lawsuit will be commenced against you, PRAGA, et al..

We will seek all available monetary damages to be proved at trial. Hopefully this recourse is not necessary, we have our own interests to protect and will vigorously do so.

You are so advised.

/s/ Dan & Erin Larson



August 21, 2026
 Dan Larson
 6670 El Pomar Drive
 Templeton, CA 93465-8638

Re: FY 2026-2027 Groundwater Sustainability Fee Appeal

Dear Mr. Larson:

This letter is sent to advise you of the outcome of your appeal to the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) regarding the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Groundwater Sustainability Fee.

The PRAGA Board considered and denied your appeal at its meeting on July 22, 2026. The following is a summary of the claim, analysis, and determination.

Appeal Claim:

Disagrees with water use calculation; requests additional proof for extraction amounts.

Documentation Presented:

No additional supporting documentation was submitted.

Fee/Use Data:

APN	Crop	Irrigated Area (ac)	WY2025 Consumed Use (AF)	Initial Fee
033-311-009	Unclassified Fallow, Grapes	0.19	0.14	\$3.21

Analysis:

The 0.14 AF consumed water use represents the evapotranspiration (minus effective precipitation) on the 0.2 acre vineyard block, which equates to about 9 inches per acre of consumed applied water. The other two fields on the APN are a Net ET of 0. The Net ET for the 0.2 acre vineyard block was on the lower end of all Paso vineyards, and is consistent with expected irrigation for the crop. Landowner did not provide any additional data that would change this analysis.

Determination: No change to the groundwater sustainability fee for this parcel because the initial consumed groundwater use data associated with the parcel was verified by Land IQ and there is no contravening evidence.

Sincerely,

Taylor Blakslee,
 Executive Director, Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority