



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Notice of Board of Directors Meeting

To be held at **9:00 a.m.** on **February 18, 2026**
at the Centennial Park Norris Room

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/97114839159
Webinar ID:	971 1483 9159
Call-in:	+1(669)444-9171,,97114839159#

Member Agency

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

Directors

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

Alternates

Marshall Miller
Kris Beal
Heather Moreno
Zach Merkel

AGENDA

February 18, 2026

NOTE: The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (Paso Authority) 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. Election of Officers (Turrentine)
6. Consent Agenda (Turrentine)
 - a. Approval of December 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approval of November and December 2025 Financial Report – **Done**
7. Executive Director Report (Blakslee)
 - a. Report on Public Workshops (Blakslee)
8. Update on Water Year 2025-2026 Annual Report (Page) – **Done**
9. Action Items
 - a. Direction on Improving Stakeholder Representation at PRAGA (Blakslee)
 - b. Direction on the Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget (Blakslee)
 - c. Approval of a Funding Mechanism for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (Blakslee)
 - d. Approval of a Contract with Solterra Strategies for Outreach and Communication Services for an Amount Not to Exceed of \$20,000 (Blakslee)
 - e. Direction on SLO County Request to Administer the Fallowed Land Registry Program (Blakslee)
 - f. Authorize Executive Director to Execute Land IQ Contract Subject to General Counsel's Approval (Blakslee)
 - g. Update on Basin Outreach Strategy (Blakslee)
10. Public Comment – Items not on Agenda (Turrentine) (3 min/speaker)
11. Director Comments / Future Agenda Items (Directors)
12. Upcoming Meeting(s) (Blakslee)
13. Adjourn



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Meeting Minutes

Recommendation

Approve the meeting minutes.

Discussion

The draft meeting minutes from the Special Meeting on December 1, 2025, is provided as **Attachment 1** for the Board's consideration of approval.

* * *

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Special Meeting

December 1, 2025

Draft Meeting Minutes

Present:

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

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

Staff:

Claire Collins, Legal Counsel
Taylor Blakslee, PRAGA Interim Administrator

1. Call to Order

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Chair Matt Turrentine called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.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

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Dale Augstine, Greg Grewal.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

MOTION

Approve the consent agenda.

Motion by: Bruce Gibson

Seconded by: Hilary Graves

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X			
John Hamon				X
Bruce Gibson	X			
Hilary Graves	X			

6. Executive Director Report

Mr. Blakslee noted that Department of Water Resources Facilitation Support Services have been requested to provide outreach services. He also reminded the board that the election of officers will occur in January. He continued to provide a presentation on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Requirements, basin status, and GSP implementation through 2040.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Dale Augustine, John Cagliero, Murray Powell, John Tucker.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

7. Ad hoc Report on Stakeholder Feedback on Governance and Funding

Director Gibson reported on meetings with stakeholders and outlined three areas for Board consideration: governance, communication, and budget. He proposed expanding the Board by three members representing grazing operations, small agriculture, and de minimis users, and noted that this would require Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement amendments and a defined selection process. He also supported creating study sessions for more open public dialogue and establishing a stakeholder advisory committee. He emphasized the need to define a compliance-focused budget, including a following registry and dry well mitigation, and to prepare for decisions on future funding mechanisms.

Director Graves supported expanding Board representation and emphasized the need for outreach formats that allow interactive discussion, such as workshops or study sessions. She noted that stakeholders frequently request more opportunities for real dialogue.

Director Hamon asked how stakeholder seats would be assigned and whether representation should reflect geographic or proportional differences among basin areas.

Director Gibson explained that any new Board members must be basin overlies and noted that the categories could include cattlemen, small ag irrigators, and de minimis users. He added that the Board will need to determine future funding paths, develop a bare-bones compliance budget, and solicit public feedback through workshops before any funding mechanism is selected.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Dale Augustine, Murry Powell, Darsha Evans, John Cagliero, Steve Carter.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

Director Graves request that staff prepare a plan outlining how to expand the Board, including considerations of voting percentages.

Director Gibson requested staff prepare the following:

- 1) Prepare draft language to expand the board by three seats and outline how those seats would be designated, including large ag and grazing, small ag, and de minimis users, along with required JPA amendments and a proposed timeline.
- 2) Prepare draft language to establish a stakeholder advisory committee, including membership options, meeting frequency, and estimated administrative costs.
- 3) Prepare materials that will frame a discussion on a compliance budget, including the minimum work needed for SGMA implementation, potential dry well mitigation, and a voluntary following registration program.

Director Gibson noted that it would be helpful to post online the outcome of this discussion.

8. Action Items

a. Approve Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and GSA Contributions

Mr. Blakslee explained that the previously adopted budget was no longer valid following the failed Proposition 218 election, and a revised January-June 2026 budget must be approved. He reviewed budget needs for reporting, Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation, legal support, outreach, technical support, and development of a future funding mechanism. He presented a request for \$300,000 in Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) contributions and noted projected June 2026 cash flow.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Murray Powell, Greg Grewal.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

Director Graves noted that the EPC board approved up to \$95,000 for the January to June budget and asked for an annotated draft budget with detailed line item notes and a funding mechanism outline. She requested these materials by January 7 to support review before upcoming meetings and finalize the budget in March.

MOTION

Adopt the revised FY 2025-2026 budget and authorize GSA contributions for an amount of \$300,000 for the January-June 2026 period as recommended by staff.

Motion by: Bruce Gibson
Seconded by: John Hamon

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X			
John Hamon	X			
Bruce Gibson	X			

Hilary Graves	X			
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b. Approval of Contract with Confluence Engineering to Develop the Water Year 2025 Annual Report

Mr. Blakslee provided an overview of the Annual Report Request for Proposals (RFP) process and noted that staff is recommending executing a contract with Confluence Engineering to develop the Water Year 2025 Annual Reports.

Chair Turrentine opened the floor for public comments.

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

Chair Turrentine closed the floor for public comments.

MOTION

Execute a contract with Confluence Engineering to develop and submit the Water Year 2025 Annual Report for an amount not to exceed \$85,026.

Motion by: Hilary Graves
 Seconded by: Bruce Gibson

Members	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Recuse
Matt Turrentine (Chair)	X			
John Hamon	X			
Bruce Gibson	X			
Hilary Graves	X			

9. Public Comments – Items not on the Agenda

Public Comments: Greg Grewal, Murray Powell.

10. Director Comments / Future Agenda

Directors discussed scheduling for January and February meetings and coordination with GSA boards.

11. Upcoming Meetings

Chair Turrentine noted that the next scheduled meeting is for January 28, 2026, which is subject to change.

Adjourn at 11:07 a.m.

Drafted by: Grace Bianchi, Hallmark Group



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 6b

FROM: Jacqueline Harris, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of November and December 2025 Financial Report

Recommendation

Approve financial reports for November and December 2025.

Discussion

The financial reports for November and December 2025 are provided as **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**, respectively.

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Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

November 2025

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Financial Statements
Fiscal Year-to-Date Through November 30, 2025

Statement of Net Position

Current Assets	
Cash - J.P. Morgan Chase <i>(non-interest bearing checking)</i>	\$ 202,583
Accounts Receivable	-
Total Assets	\$ 202,583
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 16,202
Accrued Expenses	\$ 38,350
Total Liabilities	\$ 54,552
Net Position	
Unrestricted	\$ 148,031
Total Net Position	\$ 148,031

Statement of Change in Net Position With Budget Variance

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue			
Member Agency Funding	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -
Operating Expenses			
Annual Report - SGMA	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ -
Contracted Administrator/ED	95,749	105,605	(9,856)
Legal <i>(General Counsel)</i>	82,505	89,779	(7,274)
Public Education and Outreach	-	19,000	(19,000)
Technical Consulting <i>(Land IQ)</i>	21,350	21,350	-
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI Prop 218)</i>	34,151	34,151	-
JPA Start-Up Costs	79	-	79
Office and Travel Expenses	4,658	-	4,658
Contingency	-	34,100	(34,100)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 255,492	\$ 320,985	\$ (65,493)
Change in Net Position	\$ 44,508	\$ (20,985)	\$ 65,493

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Receipts and Disbursements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through November 30, 2025

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Number	Name	Amount
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2599	Jerry Reaugh	\$ (132.20)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2600	Hallmark Group	(28,047.59)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2601	Hallmark Group	(16,185.55)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2602	Streamline Software, Inc.	(500.00)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2603	Streamline Software, Inc.	(6,000.00)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2604	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	(2,410.41)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2605	Paso Robles Joint USD	(204.86)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2606	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(51,259.38)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2607	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(14,250.00)
08/28/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3000	Hallmark Group	(43,320.07)
08/28/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3001	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(47,701.13)
08/28/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3002	Jerry Reaugh	(206.48)
09/17/2025	Deposit	78738	City of Paso Robles	48,000.00
09/17/2025	Deposit	1427	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	45,000.00
09/17/2025	Deposit	3087990	County of San Luis Obispo GSA	99,000.00
09/17/2025	Deposit	1425	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	437.75
09/24/2025	Voided Check	3003	Printer error	-
09/24/2025	Voided Check	3004	Printer error	-
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3005	Hallmark Group	(20,892.42)
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3006	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(14,260.00)
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3007	SCI Consulting Group	(34,150.79)
10/09/2025	Deposit	1432	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	45,000.00
10/09/2025	Deposit	1568	Shandon-San Juan Water District	63,000.00
10/10/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3008	Jerry Reaugh (postage reimbursement)	(9.70)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3009	Hallmark Group	(23,585.45)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3010	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(17,864.00)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3011	Full Sail Bookkeeping	(187.74)
				\$ (20,730.02)

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Accounts Payable
As of November 30, 2025

Name	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 And Over	Total
Hallmark Group	\$ 11,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,763
Hanson Bridgett LLP	4,439	-	-	-	-	4,439
Total	\$ 16,202	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,202



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

December 2025

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through December 31, 2025

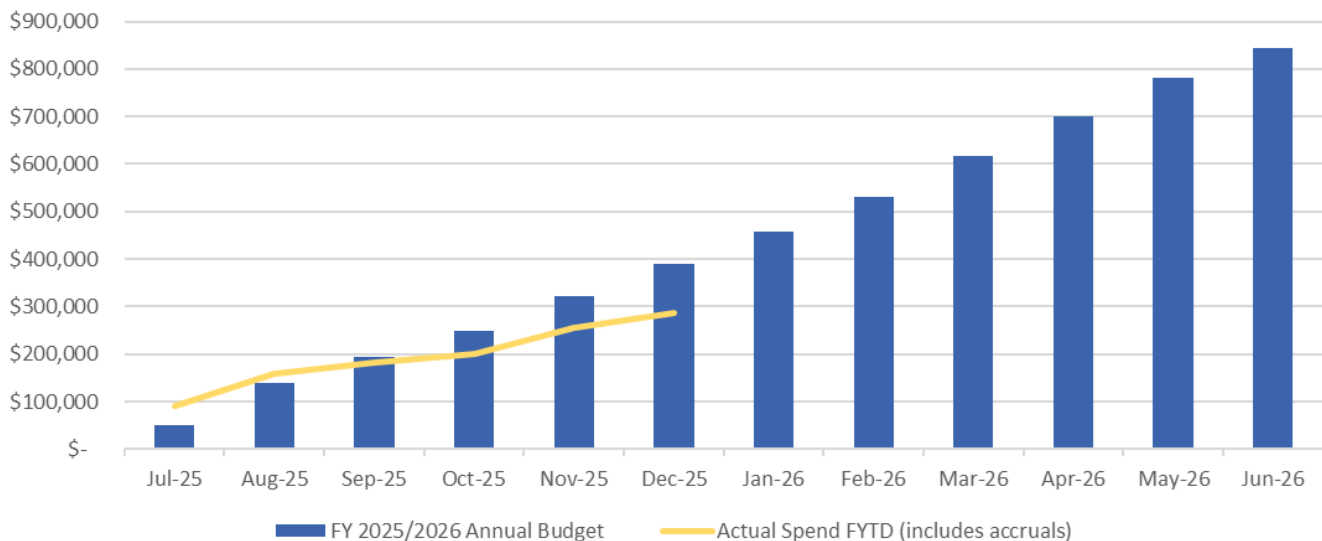
Statement of Net Position

Current Assets	
Cash - J.P. Morgan Chase <i>(non-interest bearing checking)</i>	\$ 202,583
Accounts Receivable	300,000
Total Assets	\$ 502,583
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 30,878
Accrued Expenses	\$ 55,350
Total Liabilities	\$ 86,228
Net Position	
Unrestricted	\$ 416,355
Total Net Position	\$ 416,355

Statement of Change in Net Position With Budget Variance

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue			
Member Agency Funding	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ -
Operating Expenses			
Annual Report - SGMA	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ -
Contracted Administrator/ED	101,505	126,726	(25,221)
Legal <i>(General Counsel)</i>	90,910	107,735	(16,825)
Public Education and Outreach	-	22,800	(22,800)
Technical Consulting <i>(Land IQ)</i>	21,350	23,300	(1,950)
Technical Consulting <i>(SCI Prop 218)</i>	34,151	34,151	-
JPA Start-Up Costs	79	-	79
Office and Travel Expenses	5,173	-	5,173
Contingency	-	40,920	(40,920)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 287,168	\$ 389,632	\$ (102,464)

PRAGA Cumulative FY 2025/2026 Budget With FYTD Actuals



Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

Receipts and Disbursements

Fiscal Year-to-Date Through December 31, 2025

Transaction Date	Transaction Type	Number	Name	Amount
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2599	Jerry Reaugh	\$ (132.20)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2600	Hallmark Group	(28,047.59)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2601	Hallmark Group	(16,185.55)
07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2602	Streamline Software, Inc.	(500.00)
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07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2604	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	(2,410.41)
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07/31/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	2607	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(14,250.00)
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09/17/2025	Deposit	1425	Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water Dist.	437.75
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09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3006	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(14,260.00)
09/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3007	SCI Consulting Group	(34,150.79)
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11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3010	Hanson Bridgett LLP	(17,864.00)
11/25/2025	Bill Payment (Check)	3011	Full Sail Bookkeeping	(187.74)
				<u>\$ (20,730.02)</u>

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Accounts Receivable
As of December 31, 2025

Name	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 And Over	Total
City of Paso Robles	\$ 48,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,000
County of San Luis Obispo GSA	99,000	-	-	-	-	99,000
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	90,000	-	-	-	-	90,000
Shandon-San Juan Water District	63,000	-	-	-	-	63,000
Total	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000

Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
Accounts Payable
As of December 31, 2025

Name	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 And Over	Total
Hallmark Group	\$ 6,260	\$ 11,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,023
Hanson Bridgett LLP	8,416	4,439	-	-	-	12,855
Total	\$ 14,676	\$ 16,202	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,878



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 7

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Report on Public Workshops

Recommendation

Informational only.

Discussion

On December 1, 2025, the Board directed staff to gather public input in advance of the February 18, 2026 Board meeting on two topics: 1) stakeholder representation on PRAGA and 2) the Fiscal Year 2026 to 2027 budget and funding mechanism. Staff conducted outreach through an online survey and two public workshops, one in person and one virtual. Workshops were facilitated by staff and Stantec through Facilitation Support Services funded by a DWR grant.

On December 1, 2025, the Board requested public feedback on the following topics ahead of the February 18, 2026 Board meeting: 1) Improving stakeholder representation on PRAGA, and 2) Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget and funding mechanism.

Public feedback was solicited by a survey and public workshops (1 in-person, 1 virtual). Workshops were facilitated by staff and Stantec, who are providing Facilitation Support Services through a DWR grant.

Notices and materials were emailed to the contact list of approximately 550 individuals, posted on the PRAGA website, and shared with member GSAs for distribution. Staff received 12 survey responses. Approximately 20 people attended the February 10, 2026 in person workshop at the Estrella Warbirds Museum in Paso Robles, and 15 attended the February 11, 2026 virtual workshop via Zoom. A summary of feedback is included under the corresponding agenda items.



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 8

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Water Year 2025-2026 Annual Report

Recommendation

None – information only.

Discussion

On December 1, 2025 the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) approved a contract with Confluence Engineering to develop and submit the Water Year 2025-2026 Annual Report to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the April 1st regulatory deadline.

Below is a schedule outlining the development and submittal of the Annual Report, including a stakeholder review period.

Water Year 2025-2026 Annual Report Timeline:

- **February 27th** Public Draft is distributed via email and posted on PRAGA website for review.
- **March 13th** End of public comment period.
- **March 18th** Final report distributed as part of Board packet for March 25th meeting.
- **March 25th** PRAGA to consider approval at its regular Board meeting.
- **April 1st** Annual Report submitted to DWR.

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PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9a

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Direction on Improving Stakeholder Representation at PRAGA

Recommendation

Establish either an informal or formal Advisory Committee for a year and reevaluate this topic at that time.

Discussion

On December 1, 2025, the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Board directed staff to develop options to consider improving stakeholder representation on PRAGA.

Staff proposed the following four options and distributed them to stakeholders in the form of a survey and held two public workshops on February 10th and 11th to obtain public feedback. Approximately 47 stakeholders attended or provided their feedback, and the table below summarizes the options, implementation considerations and the stakeholder feedback received.

No.	Option	Implementation Consideration	Stakeholder Feedback
1	Formal Advisory Committee Brown Act compliant.	Will incur new, ongoing costs, but potential to be facilitated and funded by California Department of Water Resources grant.	Significant support for this option. Comment raised that costs shouldn't prevent structural improvements.
2	Informal Advisory Committee Meet as-needed to discuss relevant topics.	Minimal implementation costs.	Majority expressed support and interest in this opportunity. Support for providing input to board before board meetings.

3	<p>Increase the Board by Four (4) Seats</p> <p>Provide each Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with an additional seat and appoint a Director through each GSA process.</p>	<p>Requires a change to the joint powers agreement which will incur costs and several months to finalize as discussion occur among each GSA.</p>	<p>Minimal support for this option.</p> <p>Concern that GSA seats wouldn't improve overall representation.</p>
4	<p>Increase the Board by Three (3) Seats</p> <p>Assign seats to specific user categories (e.g. residential, small or large pumper, grazer).</p>	<p>Requires a change to the joint powers agreement which will incur costs and several months to finalize as discussion occur among each GSA</p>	<p>Several stakeholders supported this option with interest de minimis representation.</p> <p>More seats = more representation, but longer decision-making process.</p>

Additional general feedback included interest in clearer messaging, earlier engagement, more localized workshops.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the majority public feedback and the relatively straightforward implementation, staff recommend establishing either an informal or formal Advisory Committee for a year and then reevaluating this topic at that time.

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PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9b

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Direction on the Draft Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Recommendation

Hold a public workshop to provide a comprehensive review of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 prior to potential Board adoption of the budget.

Discussion

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) Board directed staff to develop a minimal compliance budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027), and a draft budget is provided as **Attachment 1** for review.

This draft budget was distributed to stakeholders via email on January 22, 2026, and discussed at the February 10th and 11th public workshops and public feedback on the draft budget is included below.

Public Feedback:

- Budget appears to be bare bones.
- Reporting and transparency are key, public workshop is appreciated.
- Suggestion to hold budget workshops and/or more localized community outreach.
- Importance of an annual audit.
- Maintain budget documents on website.
- Keep budget minimal until PRAGA has majority stakeholders support.
- Concerns on Executive Director and Legal Fees, suggestion to bid out or reevaluate fees to determine if costs can be reduced.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend holding an in-person public workshop in March 2026 to provide a comprehensive review of the draft budget with stakeholders prior to the Board considering budget adoption.

* * *

DRAFT Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Budget Components		FY 25-26 Budget Approved on 12-1-25	DRAFT FY 26-27	
Program Administration				
SGMA-Required				Budget Notes
1	Annual Report	\$102,000	\$100,000	Required by DWR. Cost based on recent proposals.
2	GSP Fifth Year Evaluation	\$0	\$10,000	2025 eval already submitted to State, next eval not due until 2030. Money to interact with DWR on any questions, clarifications, meetings on eval, if received.
3	GSP Amendment	\$0		No current plan to amend the GSP.
4	Groundwater Model Use/Update	\$0		Contemplated to be funded by grant funding.
5	Basin Monitoring Operations & Maintenance, DWR Upload	\$0	\$140,860	Total = 113 wells. 49 transducers. Data upload and groundwater conditions reports.
6	Establish Sustainable Management Criteria & Investigate Minimum Threshold Exceedances		\$20,000	RFP for on-call tech support services to perform tech analysis and recommended options for well exceedances.
7	Data Management System	\$0	\$0	Recommend deferring until FY 27-28 (fallowed land platform may address this need).
8	Evapotranspiration Agriculture Water Usage Program (LandIQ)	\$100,000	\$100,000	Monthly evapotranspiration data for the basin. (
	SGMA-Required Subtotal	\$202,000	\$370,860	
Administrative				
9	Executive Director & Support Staff	\$253,446	\$216,000	Assume monthly meetings (does not include Advisory Committee costs).
10	Legal Counsel	\$215,471	\$144,000	Assume monthly meetings (does not include Advisory Committee costs).
11	Insurance	\$21,084	\$22,000	Develop audit policy and engage Auditor for FY 25-26 + 2 months (14 months total); RFP, etc.
12	Grant Development	\$0	\$60,000	Costs to develop and submit 2 grant applications (potential Prop 4 grant opportunity).
13	Technical Consultant(s)			
14	Prop 218 Development (SCI)	\$34,151	\$0	SCI work to support Prop 218 (did not pass).
15	Prop 218 Support & On-Call Svcs (Land IQ)	\$35,000		Contract approved on 8-18-25 for \$35k. \$21,350 for Prop 218 (did not pass) ET support, and \$13,650 for on-call services (if needed).
16	Funding Mechanism Development/Implementation for FY 26-27 (Fee Consultant)	\$50,000	\$50,000	Costs to develop and implement a Funding Mechanism for FY 26-27.
17	Evapotranspiration Data Management (Land IQ)		\$15,000	
18	Administration of Fee (Prop 26 or 218)		\$30,000	Costs to implement either a Prop 26 or 218. Will be lower cost if a Prop 26.
19	Public Education and Outreach Program	\$46,000	\$35,000	Assumes PR firm is selected to perform outreach activities for PRAGA.
20	Website Management	\$6,000	\$6,000	Monthly website cost = \$500 through Streamline, billed annually in May
21	GW Fee Billing & Collection	\$0	\$40,000	Direct bill landowners if Prop 26/218 implemented in FY 25-26. Develop RFP or HG to adminster. Estimate based on 1,200 landowners.
	Administrative Subtotal	\$661,152	\$618,000	
	Program Administration Subtotal	\$863,152	\$988,860	
Projects and Management Actions				
Regulatory Programs				
22	Domestic Well Impact Mitigation Program	\$0	\$50,000	Costs for potential program development.
23	Address Additional GSP Data Gaps	\$0	\$0	Address DWR periodic eval feedback if received in FY 26-27.
24	Well Verification & Registration Program	\$0	\$7,000	Grant/County developing program; still in development. Costs to coordinate with County agencies on well verification/registration program and maintain records.
Demand Management Programs				
25	Demand Reduction and Water Supply Programs	\$0	\$0	No projects currently identified.
26	Fallowed Land Registry Program (Formerly labeled MILR)	\$0	\$0	Fallow land registry platform development covered by grant; Platform administration covered by county.
	Projects and Management Actions Subtotal	\$0	\$57,000	
	Subtotal	\$863,152	\$1,045,860	
25	Contingency (i.e. Prudent Reserve)	\$81,800	\$104,586	Board directed to use 10% on 8-18-25. Renamed from "Prudent Reserve" to "Contingency".
	Total	\$944,952	\$1,150,446	



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9c

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval of a Funding Mechanism for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Recommendation

Staff recommend implementing a Prop 26 for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and not charging de minimis users.

Discussion

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) joint powers agreement requires a funding mechanism to be established by June 30, 2026. In May 2025, the Board directed staff to implement a Proposition 218 funding approach, which was protested at the August 1, 2025 public hearing. The Board then directed staff to develop additional funding options for Board, which were initially presented at the August 18, 2025 special Board meeting and discussed at the December 1, 2025 special Board meeting. During the December 1, 2025 special Board meeting, the Board directed staff to return on the February 18, 2026 Board meeting with final funding options for consideration.

Staff presented the following two options to stakeholders through a survey and two public workshops on February 10th and 11th to obtain public feedback. Approximately 47 stakeholders participated through a workshop or survey responses. These options are summarized below including implementation considerations and the stakeholder feedback received.

Option 1: Prop 26 (Water Code 10730)

This option would set a fee by dividing the approved FY 2026-2027 budget amount by the August 2024 through July 2025 groundwater use calculation (determined by Land IQ's satellite-based evapotranspiration methodology) and charging groundwater extractors based on their consumed groundwater use for the 12-month period. A report describing the basis of the charge would be posted online, noticed to parcel owners, and following a PRAGA public rate hearing, the Board could adopt a charge via resolution.

Implementation Considerations

- Need to determine the fee basis (per parcel, per acre, etc).
- A review process would be set for the ET data for each parcel on which landowners would be charged to allow landowners to make any corrections to the data.
- Need to determine if de minimis users (those using less than 2 AF) should be exempt from charge.
- Need to determine penalty fees.
- Need to determine the method of charging pumpers (direct bill vs. tax roll).
- Simpler and cheaper to administer but does not require a landowner protest process.
- Charge would be set annually and tied directly to the current Fiscal Year budget.

Public Feedback

- Majority support from stakeholders to consider as a short-term option.
- Questions about volumetric structure and treatment of de minimis users.
- Concern regarding funding of future capital projects.

Option 2: Prop 218 (Water Code 10730.2) with threshold (only impose fees on water users using over a specific AF amount annually).

This option would establish a 5-year budget projection and set different rates based on user classifications as described in a cost-of-service study. Charges would apply to groundwater extractors exceeding a defined annual acre foot threshold. A notice of the proposed groundwater charge would be distributed to affected landowners who would have the opportunity to protest the proposed charge. For this charge to pass, less than a majority protest must be achieved which would be determined at a public hearing. If the charge is successful, the charge would be assessed to parcel owners according to their water consumed water use for the August 2024 through July 2025 period. For agricultural users, this would be determined by Land IQ's satellite-based evapotranspiration methodology.

Implementation Considerations

- A review process would be set for the ET data for each parcel on which landowners would be charged to allow landowners to make any corrections to the data.
- Need to determine if de minimis users (those using less than 2 AF) should be exempt from charge.
- Need to determine penalty fees.
- Need to determine the method of charging pumpers (direct bill vs. tax roll).
- More complex and expensive to administer and requires a landowner protest process.
- The cost of service study would set the maximum charge that could be assessed in a given year (within the 5-year window), but the PRAGA Board would need to pass a charge each year, which could be less than the maximum amount, on an annual basis.

Public Feedback

- Minimal support expressed, with most comments referencing the recently protested Prop 218 hearing.

- Concern regarding high administrative cost.
- Stakeholder trust and budget transparency must improve before reconsidering.

At the public workshops, staff presented a third option which is for the State Water Resources Control Board to take over the basin, and a fourth option was identified by a local stakeholder which is for the joint powers authority to dissolve and manage the basin by each individual Groundwater Sustainability Agency. A general comment was raised that the options felt predetermined and pushed onto stakeholders.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the majority public feedback and the simplified and cost-effective implementation, staff recommend implementing a Prop 26 to fund Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

* * *



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9e

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Direction on SLO County Request to Administer the Fallowed Land Registry Program

Recommendation

Board direction requested.

Discussion

The County of San Luis Obispo transmitted a formal request for the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) to provide a statement of support for a proposed resolution establishing a Fallowed Land Registry as the initial phase of the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Subbasin Multi-Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program

The proposed Registry is intended to encourage voluntary fallowing of irrigated agricultural land, track water use reductions using satellite-based evapotranspiration data, and remove certain regulatory barriers under the Agricultural Offset Ordinance and Williamson Act Rules. The County indicates that implementation would be funded through existing grant reimbursement and would not require financial contributions from PRAGA or its member agencies.

The County Request for Support Letter is included as **Attachment 1** for Board discussion and direction regarding whether to provide a formal statement of support.

* * *



Matt Turentine, Chairman
Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority
P.O. Box 82
Paso Robles, CA 93447
matt@grapevinecap.com
SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

January 12, 2026

Re: Request for Support of County Resolution Establishing the Fallowed Land Registry for the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Subbasin Multi-Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing Program

Dear Matt:

On February 3, 2026, the County Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution establishing a fallowed land registry (Registry) for the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Subbasin Multi-Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program along with corresponding amendments to the County's Agricultural Offset Ordinance and Williamson Act Rules of Procedure. The Registry represents the initial phase of the MILR Program and would encourage and facilitate voluntary fallowing and allow the County, Paso Robles Area Groundwater Subbasin groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), and the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA), to track and report the effects of voluntary fallowing on basin sustainability metrics to gauge if mandatory reductions are needed.

More specifically, the Registry is intended to support the initial phase of the MILR Program by:

1. Encouraging voluntary fallowing of commercial-scale irrigated agricultural land with a user-friendly on-line process for landowners to self-enroll and provide periodic updates to the Registry.
2. Providing participating landowners with access to best available satellite-based evapotranspiration (ET) data to inform fallowing decision-making and enhance farming best management practices.
3. Tracking registered fallowed land for groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) implementation to inform management decisions and updated groundwater modeling.

Landowners throughout the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Subbasin (i.e. the basin as defined by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and referred to as the "Basin") as well as those within the additional area subject to the County's Agricultural Offset Ordinance discussed below, would be able to voluntarily apply to enroll a "farming unit" in the Registry, defined as "contiguous or semi-contiguous parcels under the same ownership, or with the contiguous/semi-contiguous owners' written consent, in active agricultural operation managed as a single irrigated farming

operation with a fallowed area of at least two (2) acres.” Within the farming unit, the landowners would designate “fallowed areas,” delineated portions of the farming unit to be fallowed for a specified time period defined by the enrollee, which could be updated over time to support rotational fallowing and replanting. Applications to enroll farming units in the Registry would be subject to review, approval, and annual recertification by the County Department of Groundwater Sustainability or designated entity.

Farming units that meet all of the following criteria would be eligible to enroll in the Registry:

1. Managed as a single irrigated farming operation.
2. Contain a fallowed area of at least two (2) acres.
3. Fallowed area sources commercial irrigation water from the Basin or from the additional area subject to the County’s Agricultural Offset Ordinance (the area subject to said ordinance is commonly known as the Fugro boundary, exclusive of the Atascadero Subbasin).
4. Fallowed area has been commercially irrigated within the five (5) years preceding the enrollment application date; and was planted in compliance with the County Agricultural Offset Ordinance or has a valid Agricultural Offset Clearance or Agricultural Offset Exemption issued by the County Department of Planning and Building authorizing the planting of at least two (2) acres of commercially irrigated crops if within the area covered by said ordinance.

Applicants would agree to maintain neutral water use for the farming unit while enrolled in the Registry, subject to verification using satellite-based ET data. Violations of this agreement would subject applicants to removal from the Registry and to the enforcement provisions of the Agricultural Offset Ordinance, if the farming unit (or relevant portion thereof) is subject to said ordinance. The County would evaluate water neutrality for each farming unit based on the consumptive water use not exceeding the water neutrality benchmark, defined as follows:

- *Consumptive Water Use:* Consumptive water use for all commercially irrigated crops within a farming unit, to be calculated as an average of the three (3) highest annual consumptive water use values within the previous five (5) years based on satellite-based ET data, or other verifiable data sources, as authorized by the Groundwater Sustainability Director or designee.
- *Water Neutrality Benchmark:* Consumptive water use for all commercially irrigated crops within a farming unit as evaluated at the time of enrollment in the Registry, to be calculated as an average of the three (3) highest annual consumptive water use values within the five (5) years preceding the application date based on satellite-based ET data, or other verifiable data sources as authorized by the Groundwater Sustainability Director or designee, in addition to any increase in consumptive water use allowed by an Agricultural Offset Clearance or Exemption issued by the County, where applicable.

The establishment of the Registry would remove certain existing regulatory barriers to fallowing that exist within portions of the Basin and certain surrounding areas, which include the following:

Agricultural Offset Ordinance: The County adopted an ordinance prior to enactment of the Sustainable Management Act (SGMA) using its land use authority that restricted the planting of new or expanded irrigated crop production within portions (but not all) of the Basin as defined by DWR as well as certain surrounding areas. The current regulation was reenacted and extended in February 2023 and is codified in County Code section 22.30.204. The regulation was and is intended to be an interim measure until GSP implementation can achieve basin sustainability and is currently set to terminate on January 1, 2028. The majority of commercial irrigated agriculture overlying the Basin is within the unincorporated County and subject to the Agricultural Offset Ordinance restrictions. The ordinance requires a 1:1 water offset for new or expanded irrigated crop production using groundwater from the planning boundary and requires growers to apply for an agricultural offset clearance within five (5) years of stopping irrigation to be able to replant. Growers have expressed concern about this “5-year lookback” as an impediment to fallowing their land, for fear of not being able to resume irrigation in the future if they miss this lookback period.

The recommended ordinance would amend the agricultural offset requirements to include an exemption for growers who enroll in the fallowed land registry to remove concern about the five (5) year lookback as a barrier to fallowing.

Williamson Act Contracts: The County administers the Williamson Act program, which allows owners of farmland to enter into contracts with the County to receive reduced property taxes in exchange for maintaining their land in agricultural production and compatible uses for an initial ten (10) or twenty (20) years, which then auto-renew annually to maintain a ten (10) year term. The majority of agricultural land overlying the Basin is under Williamson Act contract (over 200,000 acres), with many contracts dating back to the 1970's when the program was first established. Maintaining Williamson Act contract compliance is a key component to maintaining the economic viability of many farming operations in the Basin, as the property tax benefits can be up to seventy percent (70%) of market rate value.

To qualify for a Williamson Act contract, agricultural land must meet certain minimum acreage requirements based on soil type and agricultural use type (irrigated crops, dry farmed crops, or grazing). Many contracts in the Basin qualified based on maintaining irrigated crops in active production. Stopping irrigation to fallow land would violate the terms of these contracts and jeopardize landowner tax benefits, which could potentially impair the viability of continued agricultural operations.

Therefore, the recommended resolution would amend the Williamson Act Rules of Procedure to allow participation in a County-approved fallowing program to not disqualify a property under contract where qualification is based on irrigated soils.

To summarize, growers who enroll in the Registry would receive the following benefits:

1. For parcels located within the area subject to the Agricultural Offset Ordinance, exemption from the “5-year lookback” therein;
2. For parcels in a Williamson Act Contract, exemption from Williamson Act contract irrigation requirements;
3. For all parcels within the Basin and additional area subject to the County’s ordinance, access to farming unit-specific satellite-based ET data to inform following decision-making and a mechanism to formally document water use (or lack thereof); and
4. For parcels located within the area subject to the Agricultural Offset Ordinance, self-certified maintenance of neutral water use per farming unit, subject to verification using satellite-based ET data, rather than having to apply for an Agricultural Offset Clearance from the Department of Planning and Building when replanting.

The development and deployment of the Registry, including the preparation of the recommended ordinance and resolutions is covered by the County General Fund as a County-initiated project with expenditures to be reimbursed by the State from SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant funding (Grant No. 4600014639). The cost of enrolling farming units in the fallowed land registry will be paid for by the General Fund. No funding will be required from PRAGA, or its member GSAs or the San Miguel Community Services District.

The County believes that the development and deployment of the Registry as the initial phase of the MILR Program will encourage and facilitate voluntary fallowing within the Basin and allow the County, the Basin GSAs, and PRAGA, to track and report the effects of voluntary fallowing on basin sustainability metrics to gauge if mandatory reductions are needed.

As we move toward the deployment phase of the Registry, the County would respectfully request that PRAGA consider providing a statement of support in moving forward with the implementation of the Registry.

If there are any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 805-781-4206 (Office) or 805-280-1051 (Cell). My email is breely@co.slo.ca.us.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Blaine T. Reely

Blaine T. Reely, PhD, PE
Director – Groundwater Sustainability



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

To: Board of Directors

From: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

Date: February 18, 2026

Subject: Agenda Item 9f – Authorize Executive Director to Execute Land IQ Contract
Subject to General Counsel's Approval

Recommendation

Approve the Land IQ Client Services Agreement and Scope of Work.

Discussion

During the August 18, 2025, Board meeting, the scope of work prepared by Land IQ was included for board consideration. Staff and legal identified the need to formalize an agreement for the work already performed and any future tasks. The Board requested that a contract be brought back for approval after the scope was reviewed.

The Land IQ Client Services Agreement (**Attachment 1**) establishes a contract to perform work under executed Statements of Work for an amount not to exceed \$35,000. This covers \$21,658.75 in work already completed at PRAGA's direction and leaves approximately \$13,431.25 available for future PRAGA-authorized tasks. Any additional work will require prior written direction and cost confirmation.

LAND IQ, LLC

CLIENT SERVICES AGREEMENT

This **CLIENT SERVICES AGREEMENT** (the “**Agreement**”) is made and entered into effective as of **November 24, 2025**, by and between **Land IQ, LLC**, a California limited liability company, (“**Land IQ**”), and **Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority**, a joint powers authority (“**Client**”).

WHEREAS, Land IQ is engaged in the business of providing services to its clients that involve, among other services, technical consultation, research, and performance of analyses related to soil, landscape, remotely sensed imagery, water, air, and crop production data, hydrological modeling, ecological systems, agriculture, water quality and supply management, irrigation, plant water use, geospatial analysis, environmental regulatory compliance, and legal support.

WHEREAS, Client desires to engage Land IQ to perform certain Designated Services (defined below), and Land IQ desires to perform such Designated Services, all on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual promises in this Agreement, and all other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and legal sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Designated Services

Client hereby engages Land IQ, and Land IQ hereby accepts such engagement, at all times during the Term (as hereinafter defined), to provide those services to Client described on the Statements of Work entered into and attached hereto from time to time by the parties, each of which Statement of Work shall relate to a specific project, shall be substantially in the form of **Exhibit A**, and shall be attached hereto and incorporated into this Agreement at the time such Statement of Work is agreed upon by the parties hereto (collectively, the “**Designated Services**”). Each such Statement of Work shall also set forth the Designated Services that shall be performed by Land IQ and may include descriptions of deliverable items (“**Deliverables**”), deliverable schedules, acceptance criteria, and other payment schedules. Although approved at project initiation, the Designated Services and any limitations on charges may be modified from time to time as agreed to in writing by the parties, for the applicable Statement of Work.

2. Compensation and Billing

In consideration of the performance of the Designated Services described in each Statement of Work, Client shall pay to Land IQ compensation in the form of professional fees at the rates or in the amounts and at the times set forth on such Statement of Work. Professional fees shall be charged either on a time and materials basis, unit cost basis, or on a fixed fee basis, depending upon the terms of each applicable Statement of Work.

If the Designated Services are performed on a time and materials basis, or if specifically agreed in the Statement of Work, Client shall reimburse Land IQ for (i) items of property; (ii) materials; and (iii) and out-of-pocket expenses, costs, and disbursements set forth on such Statement of Work. Land IQ agrees to provide Client with access to such original receipts, ledgers, and other records as may be reasonably appropriate for Client or its accountants to verify the amount and nature of any such (i) items of property; (ii) materials; or (iii) expenses, costs, and disbursements. If the Designated Services are performed on a time and materials basis, or if specifically agreed in the Statement of Work, Client shall pay all applicable sales and other similar taxes, if any, based upon the Designated Services.

Notwithstanding the above, the compensation to be paid to Land IQ in connection with the performance of the Designated Services is subject to modification by the parties hereto in connection with any written modifications to the Designated Services hereunder, as provided in Section 1 above.

Land IQ shall invoice Client for amounts due from the performance of the Designated Services on a monthly basis except as otherwise agreed upon in a Statement of Work, and Client shall pay all invoiced amounts within thirty (30) days after the date of the applicable invoice unless other arrangements are made in advance. All unpaid invoices shall accrue interest at the rate of one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month to the extent that they are not paid by the end of such thirty (30) day period. Any payment will be applied first to accrued interest, then to accrued late charges and then to any remaining

balance. Client shall also be responsible for all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by Land IQ in collecting delinquent amounts.

3. Termination/Suspension of Services

The term of this Agreement (the "Term") shall begin on the date hereof, and shall continue until terminated pursuant to the terms hereof.

Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement for any reason whatsoever upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice thereof to the other party. Furthermore, either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice thereof to the other party if such other party breaches any of the terms of this Agreement or fails to perform or observe any of its obligations hereunder (a "Breach"), and such Breach is not cured within a period of ten (10) days after the receipt by the breaching party of written notice of such Breach specifying the nature of the Breach. In addition, Land IQ may suspend the performance of the Designated Services upon ten (10) days' prior written notice to Client if timely payment of invoices is not made.

Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Client shall pay to Land IQ all earned but unpaid professional fees and other amounts hereunder, and all reimbursable but unreimbursed expenses, costs, and disbursements described in the Statement of Work. Land IQ shall deliver to Client, upon termination of this Agreement, any (i) items of property; (ii) materials; and (iii) items of property and materials purchased through out-of-pocket costs, expenses, or disbursements for which Land IQ claims any right to reimbursement

Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Land IQ shall promptly return to Client copies of all Deliverables completed at time of termination, as described in the subject Statements of Work, except for one (1) copy, which Land IQ shall be entitled to keep. If the "Deliverables" described in the Statement of Work contain any Confidential Information (defined below) data furnished by Client to Land IQ, Land IQ shall not be entitled to keep any copies of such data, and Land IQ shall certify in writing that it has destroyed any physical copies of such data and electronically purged any such data from its computer systems. Furthermore, upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Client shall promptly return to Land IQ copies of all physical or electronic embodiments of all Tools and Rights (defined below), including—except for the Deliverables or as may be contained in the Deliverables—all materials incorporating the proprietary information of Land IQ, and Client shall not retain any such copies. Finally, notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the terms and provisions of Sections 3, 5, 6, 9-13, and 16-28 shall survive any termination of this Agreement.

4. Delays and Force Majeure

Land IQ shall not be liable for delays in the performance of, or failures to perform, Designated Services caused by not reasonably foreseeable circumstances beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, acts of God or the public enemy; acts and/or omissions of federal, state and local government authorities and regulatory actions; strikes, lockouts, and other labor disputes not caused by Land IQ; riots; civil unrest; war; accidents not caused by Land IQ; fires, floods, pandemics, or unusually severe weather not reasonably foreseeable and not caused by Land IQ; Client's failure to furnish necessary information; sabotage by Client or a third party; failures or delays in transportation or communication by Client; failures or substitutions of equipment caused by Client; embargos; and not reasonably foreseeable shortages of fuel, raw materials, or equipment. For delays resulting from unreasonable actions or inactions of Client or its representatives, Land IQ shall be given an appropriate time extension and shall be compensated for all additional costs of labor, equipment, and other direct costs Land IQ incurs during any delay or interruption of services. Delays of more than ninety (90) days shall, at the option of either party, make this Agreement subject to termination.

Client recognizes that delays relating to the processing of permit applications or approval of permits are beyond the control of Land IQ. Land IQ makes no warranties and Client waives any claims against Land IQ relating to the timeliness of approvals or the success of permit applications prepared under this Agreement.

5. Ownership of Materials

Unless otherwise expressly agreed upon in a particular Statement of Work or Product License Agreement, Client is and shall be the owner of all final documents, maps, and other written communications, generated by Land IQ in the

performance of the Designated Services and identified as being Deliverables. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement or applicable License Agreements, Client may use, distribute, and submit such Deliverables without limitation. Distribution of any Deliverables by the Client to third parties may be limited by the terms of a License Agreement as negotiated by both parties. Where there are discrepancies between this Agreement and the Product License Agreement the more limiting terms apply.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, except for the Deliverables, Land IQ shall retain and be the sole owner of all right, title, and interest in and to all of the (a) ideas, know-how, approaches, methodologies, concepts, skills, tools, techniques, data, processes, routines, and technologies created, adapted, or used by Land IQ in its business generally, irrespective of whether possessed by Land IQ prior to, or acquired, developed, or refined by Land IQ (either independently or in concert with Client) during the course of, or the performance of, the Designated Services; (b) information, programming, software, documentation, data compilations, reports, and any other media, working notes, drawings, designs, specifications, materials, or other objects produced as a result of Land IQ's performance of the Designated Services; and (c) applicable rights to patents, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, trade secrets, and other intellectual property rights inherent therein and appurtenant thereto (collectively, the "**Tools and Rights**"). Client shall have no interest in or claim to the Tools and Rights. Land IQ reserves its right to use the Tools and Rights in providing services to any persons or entities in the future.

Except for the Deliverables or as may be contained in the Deliverables, use by Client or third parties of any Tools and Rights without the written permission of Land IQ, is prohibited, and Client shall defend, indemnify and hold Land IQ harmless from all losses, claims, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, incurred by Land IQ and arising out of such unauthorized use. Further, Client shall reasonably compensate Land IQ for violation of any copyright, patent, or other intellectual property rights occasioned by such unauthorized use.

The parties agree to execute other instruments, give further assurances, and perform acts which are or may become necessary or appropriate to effectuate and carry out the provisions of this Section 5.

6. Right of Inspection and Audit

If Land IQ's professional service fees for any particular Designated Services are charged on a time and materials basis, Client may at its sole cost and expense, during the Term and for six (6) months after its completion, have reasonable access upon reasonable notice and during normal business hours to all pertinent Land IQ records and accounts relating to such charges. Client shall reimburse Land IQ for all personnel, materials, and copying costs incurred by Land IQ for any such Client inspection and audit.

7. Assignments and Subcontractors

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, neither Client nor Land IQ shall assign or otherwise transfer its rights, duties, or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Land IQ may subcontract the performance of those Designated Services which are ordinarily or customarily provided by others or which are necessary to prevent or minimize danger to persons, property, or equipment, subject to the prior written consent of Client, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

8. Independent Contractor Status

It is agreed that Land IQ shall act as an independent contractor with respect to the performance of the Designated Services hereunder, and not as an employee, agent, or representative of Client. To that end, the parties hereby acknowledge and agree that Client shall have no right to control the manner, means, or methods by which Land IQ performs the Designated Services hereunder. Rather, Client shall be entitled only to direct Land IQ with respect to the elements of the Designated Services to be performed by Land IQ and the results to be derived by Client, to inform Land IQ as to where and when such Designated Services shall be performed, and to review and assess the performance of such Designated Services by Land IQ for the limited purposes of assuring that such Designated Services have been performed and confirming that such results were satisfactory. Land IQ agrees to pay all income taxes due on amounts paid to it under this Agreement, and further agrees that is solely responsible for timely remittance to appropriate authorities of all federal, state, and local income taxes and charges incident to the payment of compensation for goods and services and to the operation of Land IQ's business.

Land IQ shall not undertake to perform any regulatory or contractual obligation of Client or to assume any responsibility for Client's business or operations.

9. Insurance

During the Term, Land IQ agrees to maintain statutory workers' compensation insurance in the amount required by law, and employer's liability, professional, commercial general, and automobile liability insurance in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) each. Copies of certificates of insurance shall be issued upon request.

10. Standard of Care

Land IQ agrees to perform the Designated Services pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and in material compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations of government authorities. Although Land IQ believes that the Designated Services shall provide the desired benefits sought by Client, the nature of our work involves natural and managed systems that contain inherent variability. Land IQ cannot give any warranty or guaranty with respect thereto, and specifically LAND IQ MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OR WHETHER ARISING BY OPERATION OF LAW, COURSE OF PERFORMANCE OR DEALING, CUSTOM, USAGE IN THE TRADE OR PROFESSION OR OTHERWISE, WITH RESPECT TO THE DESIGNATED SERVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Client agrees to provide Land IQ with prompt written notice of any defect or suspected defect in the Designated Services.

11. Limitation of Liability

- A. In no event shall the Land IQ Indemnitees (defined below) be liable to Client or to any other person or entity for any indirect, special, or consequential damages, or lost profits, arising out of or related to this Agreement, the breach thereof, or the performance of the Designated Services.
- B. Except for earned but unpaid professional fees and other amounts hereunder, and reimbursable but unreimbursed expenses, costs, and disbursements described in the Statement of Work, in no event shall the Client Indemnitees (defined below) be liable to Land IQ or to any other person or entity for any indirect, special, or consequential damages, or lost profits, arising out of or related to this Agreement, the breach thereof, of the performance of the Designated Services.
- C. Client acknowledges and agrees that Land IQ shall have no liability to Client with respect to the quality or condition of any data, media, or other materials provided by Client to Land IQ as part of Land IQ's performance of the Designated Services. For example, if such data contains a virus, bug, or other defect, Land IQ shall not be responsible for any such matters or for any costs or expenses necessary to correct same. Furthermore, Client acknowledges and agrees that Client shall be solely responsible for Client's data, media, and materials while they are in transit to or from Land IQ. Land IQ shall not be held responsible for errors introduced within Land IQ's software or any other software that result from databases or database interfaces that have been developed by parties other than Land IQ.

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, (a) the collective liability of the Land IQ Indemnitees to Client Indemnitees shall be limited to injuries or losses caused during the Term by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Land IQ, and (b) in no event shall the Land IQ Indemnitees' aggregate liability to Client exceed the lesser of (1) the total amount of professional service fees paid to Land IQ hereunder by Client with respect to the Statement of Work in dispute, and (2) Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000), unless such actual or alleged losses arise directly or indirectly from Professional errors or omissions, in which event the Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000) amount shall be increased to One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).

12. Indemnity

- A. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Client shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless Land IQ, its members, managers, officers, directors, and employees (collectively, the "**Land IQ Indemnitees**"), from and against any and all demands, claims, causes of action, suits, judgments, liabilities, liens, losses, damages, expenses, fines, penalties, and assessments incurred or sustained by the Land IQ Indemnitees, or any of them, on account of (a) any personal injury, death, or damage to or loss of property in any manner related to the management, conduct, or operation of

Client's business; (b) the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Client in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement; and/or (c) the failure of Client to comply with all of its obligations under this Agreement.

- B. To the maximum extent permitted by law, but subject to the limitations described in Sections 4, 11 and this Section 12, Land IQ shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless Client, its officers, directors, managers, and employees (collectively, the "**Client Indemnitees**"), from and against any and all demands, claims, causes of action, suits, judgments, liabilities, liens, losses, damages, expenses, fines, penalties, and assessments incurred or sustained by Client Indemnitees on account of (a) any personal injury, death, or damage to or loss of property in any manner related to the performance of the Designated Services; (b) the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Land IQ in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement; and/or (c) the failure of Land IQ to comply with all of its obligations under this Agreement, provided, however, that the maximum aggregate liability of Land IQ shall not exceed the policy limit of Land IQ's applicable insurance policy.

13. Confidentiality

Each party hereto acknowledges that, in connection with this Agreement, such party (the "**Disclosee**") might be making use of, acquiring, or adding to, the Confidential Information of the other party (the "**Discloser**"). For purposes of this Agreement, "**Confidential Information**" shall mean (i) the confidential and proprietary information of the Discloser which is of a special and confidential nature and has tangible or intangible value and which includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) information related to the suppliers, customers, and prospective suppliers and customers of the Discloser, (2) information concerning or related to the business of the Discloser that could be used as a competitive advantage by competitors if revealed or disclosed to such competitors or to persons or entities revealing or disclosing same to such competitors, and (3) "trade secrets", as that term is defined in California Civil Code Section 3426.1, as amended from time to time, or such other applicable state law, statute, or code ("**Trade Secrets**"); (ii) the confidential and proprietary information of any other person or entity that the Discloser is obligated to maintain or hold as confidential; and (iii) any and all oral or written analyses, notes, compilations, studies, interpretations, extracts, or summaries which contain, reflect, or are based upon, in whole or in part, any of the confidential and proprietary information described in items (i) or (ii) as well as all photo, electronic, or other copies or reproductions, in whole or in part, of any of the foregoing, stored in whatever medium (including electronic or magnetic); provided however, that Confidential Information shall not include any information that: (A) was generally known or available to Disclosee or the public (other than by reason of any violation by the Disclosee or any other person or entity of any written or other obligation of confidence) at the time of the disclosure to the Disclosee by the Discloser or any of its agents or representatives, or (B) became generally known or available to Disclosee or the public (other than by reason of any violation by the Disclosee or any other person or entity of any written or other obligation of confidence) after the time of disclosure to the Disclosee by the Discloser or any of its agents or representatives other than by means of disclosure by the Discloser. Each Disclosee acknowledges that the Confidential Information has been and shall continue to be of central importance to the business of the Discloser, and that disclosure of it to, or its use by, others could cause substantial loss to the Discloser. Each Disclosee agrees that, at all times during the Term and (a) with respect to all Trade Secrets, for so long thereafter as such Trade Secrets continue to constitute Trade Secrets (or for a period of five (5) years after the Term, whichever is longer); and (b) with respect to all Confidential Information not constituting Trade Secrets, for a period of five (5) years after the Term, the Disclosee shall not, directly or indirectly, use, divulge, or disclose to any person or entity, other than those persons or entities employed or engaged by the Disclosee who or which are authorized to receive such information, any of the Confidential Information which was obtained by the Disclosee as a result of the performance of this Agreement, and the Disclosee shall hold all of the Confidential Information confidential and inviolate and shall not use the Confidential Information against the best interests of the Discloser. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, the obligations of the parties set forth in this Section shall not in any manner be construed to limit or adversely affect the exercise of the rights and privileges of Section 5 above, and in the event of any conflict between the terms of this Section 13 and the terms of Section 5, the terms of Section 5 shall govern and control.

In the event that either party is requested or required (by oral questions, interrogatories, public records act request, requests for information or documents in legal proceedings, by subpoena, by civil, administrative, or criminal investigative demand, or other similar process, or by any law, rule, or regulation of any governmental agency or regulatory authority) to disclose any Confidential Information, such party shall provide the other party with prompt written notice of any such request or requirement so that the other party may seek a protective order or other appropriate remedy and/or waive compliance with this Section 13. If, in the absence of a protective order or other remedy or the receipt of a waiver, one party is legally

compelled to disclose Confidential Information, such party may, without liability hereunder, disclose such Confidential Information as is legally required to be disclosed, provided that such party shall cooperate with the other party to obtain an appropriate protective order or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be afforded the Confidential Information required to be disclosed.

14. Right of Entry and Property Responsibility

During the Term, Client shall grant or cause to be granted to Land IQ, its assignees, and its authorized subcontractors, at Client's expense, free access to any property affiliated with the Designated Services (a "Site"). Client shall notify the owners and possessors of such Site, whether they are lawfully or unlawfully in possession, that Client has granted such free access to such Site. Client shall secure permission and any permits necessary to allow Land IQ, its assignees, and its authorized subcontractors free access to such Site at no charge to such parties unless otherwise specifically agreed to in writing. Land IQ shall not assume control of or responsibility for the property itself or the safety of persons not in Land IQ's employ.

15. Site Uncertainties

In soil, landscape, land use, water, and other scientific investigations, actual conditions may vary materially from those noted at test points, sample intervals, or by remote analyses. Because of the inherent uncertainties, changed or unanticipated conditions may arise during subsequent activities at any Site that could potentially affect project scope and cost. Because of these inherent uncertainties, Land IQ's reports and opinions with respect to any landscape condition are not guaranteed to be a representation of actual Site conditions or costs, and the consequences of unanticipated conditions during subsequent activities at any Site are not the responsibility of Land IQ. If the Site conditions are such that the cost of the Designated Services will materially increase, Land IQ agrees to notify Client in writing of said Site conditions, and shall not proceed with the Designated Services until Client gives written authorization to proceed.

16. Non Solicitation of Personnel

Client acknowledges that Land IQ provides a valuable service by identifying and assigning its employees, independent contractors, and agents to assist Land IQ in conducting the Designated Services. Therefore, without the prior written consent of Land IQ, Client shall not recruit or hire any employee, independent contractor, or agent of Land IQ that is or has been assigned to perform any of the Designated Services on behalf of Land IQ, or who actually performs any part of such Designated Services, until one (1) year after the termination of this Agreement.

17. Notices

All notices, requests, demands, and other communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and, if mailed by prepaid first class mail or certified mail, return receipt requested, at any time other than during a general discontinuance of postal service due to strike, lockout, or otherwise, shall be deemed to have been received on the earlier of the date shown on the receipt or three (3) business days after the postmarked date thereof. In addition, notices hereunder may be delivered by hand, in which event the notice shall be deemed effective when delivered, or by overnight courier, in which event the notice shall be deemed to have been received on the next business day following delivery by such courier. Finally, notices hereunder may be delivered by facsimile transmission or by electronic mail transmission; if sent by facsimile transmission, such notice shall be followed forthwith by letter and shall be deemed to have been received on the next business day following dispatch and acknowledgment of receipt by the recipient's facsimile machine; and if sent by electronic mail transmission, such notice shall be followed forthwith by letter and shall be deemed to have been received on the next business day following such transmission. All notices and other communications under this Agreement shall be given to the parties hereto at the following addresses:

- (a) If to Land IQ:

Land IQ, LLC
2020 L Street, Suite 210
Sacramento, California 95811

Attention: Casey Gudel
phone: (916) 265-6330
email: cgudel@landiq.com

(b) If to Client:

Paso Robles Groundwater Authority
PO Box 82
Paso Robles, CA 93447
Attention: Taylor Blakeslee
phone: (661) 477-3385
email: tblakeslee@hgcpm.com

unless and until notice of another or different address shall be given as provided herein.

18. Integration

This Agreement, including each Statement of Work and License Agreement related hereto and entered into by the parties hereto from time to time, and all other attachments, if any, hereto and to any Statement of Work and License Agreement, embodies the entire agreement between, and the understanding of, the parties hereto in respect of the subject matter contained herein. The parties hereto have not relied upon any promises, representations, warranties, agreements, covenants, or undertakings, other than those expressly set forth or referred to herein. This Agreement supersedes all prior or contemporaneous negotiations, understandings, and agreements, whether written or oral, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein, including but not limited to any preprinted terms and conditions contained in any purchase order, request for proposal, proposal, or other written communication between the parties. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement (excluding the Statements of Work and License Agreements) and the terms and conditions of a particular Statement of Work or License Agreement, the terms and conditions of the Statement of Work or License Agreement shall govern and control, except to the extent otherwise expressly provided in such Statement of Work or License Agreement.

19. Extensions, Modifications or Amendments

No extension, modification, or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding upon a party hereto unless such extension, modification, or amendment is set forth in a written instrument, which is executed and delivered on behalf of such party.

20. Successors and Assigns

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Except as provided above, this Agreement shall not create any rights or benefits in any person or entity other than Client and Land IQ, nor is it intended to create any third-party beneficiaries to it.

21. Severability

In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement, and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision were limited or modified, consistent with its general intent, to the extent necessary so that it shall be valid, legal, and enforceable, or if it shall not be possible to so limit or modify such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision, this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein, and all other provisions hereof shall be and remain unimpaired and in full force and effect.

22. Waiver

The failure or delay of either party hereto at any time or times to require performance of any provision of this Agreement shall in no manner affect its right to enforce that provision. No single or partial waiver by either party hereto of any condition of this Agreement, or the breach of any term, agreement, or covenant, or the inaccuracy of any representation or

warranty of this Agreement, whether by conduct or otherwise, in any one or more instances, shall be construed or deemed to be a further or continuing waiver of any such condition, breach, or inaccuracy, or a waiver of any other condition, breach, or inaccuracy.

23. Governing Law

This Agreement, and any and all claims arising out of the relationship between the parties hereto, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to any conflicts or choice of laws principles which otherwise might be applicable.

24. Arbitration

Any dispute, claim or controversy relating in any way to this Agreement, whether in contract, in tort or otherwise, except a request for equitable, injunctive or restraining relief or to enforce an arbitration award, shall be resolved by arbitration in Sacramento, California, in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”), subject to the limitations of this Section 25. This agreement to arbitrate will be specifically enforceable under the prevailing law of any court having jurisdiction. Notice of a demand for arbitration will be filed in writing with the other party hereto and with the American Arbitration Association. The demand for arbitration shall be made within a reasonable time after the claim, dispute or other matter in question has arisen, and in no event shall any such demand be made after the date when institution of legal or equitable proceedings based on such claim, dispute or other matter in question would be barred by the applicable statute of limitations. The parties agree that three (3) arbitrators shall arbitrate all disputes. The arbitrators shall be selected by the joint agreement of the parties, but if they do not so agree within twenty (20) days after the date of the notice of a demand for arbitration referred to above, the selection shall be made pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules from the panels of arbitrators maintained by the American Arbitration Association. The parties will be entitled to discovery in the arbitration proceeding to the extent provided for in civil actions in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. The award rendered by the arbitrators will be final, judgment may be entered upon it in any court having jurisdiction thereof, and the award will not be subject to vacation, modification or appeal, except to the extent permitted by Sections 10 and 11 of the Federal Arbitration Act, the terms of which Sections the parties agree shall apply. Except as provided to the contrary in Section 26, each party shall pay its own expenses of arbitration, and the expenses of the arbitrators shall be equally shared.

25. Attorneys’ Fees

In the event of arbitration or litigation between Client and Land IQ arising out of the Agreement, each party shall be entitled to recover from the other all of its reasonable costs and attorneys’ fees, excluding expenses of the arbitrators (if any), to the extent that such party prevails over the other party in such proceeding.

26. No Liens or Encumbrances

Land IQ warrants that no liens, encumbrances, security interests, or other third-party claims of any type will attach to any Site as a consequence of its performance of the Designated Services. Land IQ agrees, upon request, to furnish conditional and unconditional forms of waiver of lien signed by Land IQ and all contractors, subcontractors, and materialmen who will furnish labor and materials under this Agreement.

27. General Warranties

Each party represents and warrants that: (i) it is duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its formation and is qualified to conduct its business in those jurisdictions necessary to perform this Agreement; (ii) the execution and delivery of this Agreement are within its powers, have been duly authorized by all necessary action and do not violate any of the terms or conditions in its governing documents or any contract to which it is a party or any law applicable to it; (iii) this Agreement constitutes a legal, valid, and binding obligation of such party enforceable against it in accordance with its terms (subject to any equitable defenses); (iv) there are no bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, receivership, or other similar proceedings pending or being contemplated by it, or to its knowledge threatened against it; and (v) there are no suits, proceedings, judgments, rulings, or orders by or before any court or any governmental authority that could materially adversely affect its ability to perform this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have duly executed this Agreement effective as of the day and year first above written.

LAND IQ:

LAND IQ, LLC

By: _____

Name: Mica Heilmann

Title: Manager/Owner

CLIENT:

PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

By: _____

Name: Matt Turretine

Title: Board Chair

EXHIBIT A
STATEMENT OF WORK

SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT(S) OF WORK

PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY – ON CALL SERVICES PROPOSED TASK AMENDMENT

PREPARED FOR: Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

PREPARED BY: Land IQ

DATE: November 21, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Land IQ has been supporting the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) through the development of the Multi-Benefit Irrigated Land Repurposing (MILR) Program. This additional scope of work has been developed at the request of PRAGA for additional work outside the current scope of work contracted with Land IQ.

STAFFING RESOURCES & PROJECT COOPERATORS

Staff expected to work on this project from Land IQ have been involved in various aspects of crop mapping, consumptive use estimates, and regulatory support since 2011, and are listed below. Other appropriately qualified staff may also participate to facilitate the timely completion of any tasks approved by PRAGA as a part of this proposed scope of work.

- Principal In Charge and Agricultural Scientist – Joel Kimmelshue, PhD
- Agricultural Scientist – Stephanie Tillman, MS
- Project Manager – Casey Gudel, MS
- Agricultural & Irrigation Scientist – Adriana Joosep, BS
- Geospatial Programmer – Xue Gao, MS
- GIS Analyst – Justin Sitton, BS
- Support Staff – Various as needed

Land IQ expects and welcomes input and collaboration with PRAGA staff.

TASKS

One task is included in this scope of work, as follows:

- Task 1 – On Call Services

TASK 1: ON-CALL SERVICES

Scope of Work:

Recently, Land IQ has been asked to support out-of-scope efforts as directed by PRAGA to support the 218 process, fee structure efforts, data summaries, etc. These past efforts have amounted to \$27,158.75 (summary provided) and were not anticipated in the original scope of services. It is the expectation that future efforts related to the ongoing processes and unforeseen tasks will be asked of Land IQ. In these somewhat fluid and unknown circumstances, it is recommended that an “On Call Services” task be added to the original scope of services as an amendment. This task can only be charged at the written direction of the client and provides for an efficient way to conduct smaller task items without additional contracting delays.

Any requested work would be addressed on a case-by-case basis and approved in writing (e.g., email direction) following an estimated cost provided by Land IQ and would fall within a predefined budget limit of \$35,000. The previously mentioned \$27,158.75 would be deducted from this amount leaving approximately \$7,841.25 for any future out of scope requests.

These and other tasks can be addressed on a case-by-case basis only as requested and approved by PRAGA and other representative stakeholder groups and would have a specific not-to-exceed cost that would fall under the on-call services budget limit.

Cost: On-Call Services budget of \$35,000 (including \$27,158.75 of recent work efforts) only to be spent at the written direction of PRAGA. This is intended to be a budget placeholder to account for recent (218 and fee structure support) and expected future out-of-scope efforts for additional work at the request of the client.

PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY – ON CALL SERVICES PROPOSED TASK AMENDMENT

PREPARED FOR: Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority

PREPARED BY: Land IQ

DATE: November 21, 2025

INTRODUCTION

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Land IQ expects and welcomes input and collaboration with PRAGA staff.

Scope Confidentiality: *It should be noted that this scope of work is considered confidential in nature, and is intended for review and consideration only by the addressees in the “Prepared For” line.*

TASKS

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TASK 1: ON-CALL SERVICES

Scope of Work:

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***Scope Confidentiality:** It should be noted that this scope of work is considered confidential in nature, and is intended for review and consideration only by the addressees in the “Prepared For” line.*



PASO ROBLES AREA GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TO: Board of Directors
Agenda Item No. 9g

FROM: Taylor Blakslee, Hallmark Group

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Basin Outreach Strategy

Recommendation

None – Informational only.

Discussion

Staff applied to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Facilitation Support Services on behalf of the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (PRAGA) and was approved for services for February 2026 through 2027

Stantec, in coordination with DWR, will provide neutral third-party facilitation and stakeholder engagement support. **Attachment 1** outlines the scope of work and services intended to improve communication, address stakeholder concerns, and support continued implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

This update is to inform the Board and public of the approved services and the planned engagement efforts.

Facilitation Services

California Department of Water Resources
Technical Support



Services Offered



- Strategic planning
- Stakeholder identification and outreach
- Stakeholder assessment
- Stakeholder liaison and mediation
- Meeting facilitation
- Governance assessment
- Public outreach

Neutral Third-Party Facilitators

Statewide
Team of
Experienced
Mediators and
Facilitators

Collaboration
with the
Research
Community

- Private
Sector and
Non-Profit

Staffing
Match

Subbasin Eligibility

Four minimum eligibility requirements:

- Commitment to work collaboratively with others to meet the requirements of the SGMA
- Identify a clear and defined need for professional facilitation support services
- Commitment to meet regularly and work diligently toward clear, defined goals.
- Commit to providing logistical and administrative support



**Department of Water Resources
Approved Facilitation Support
Services For PRAGA
February 2026-2027**



Stakeholder Assessment

- Conduct up to 5 small group interviews to learn community views about issues facing Paso Robles Groundwater Users and communication needs
- Information from interviews to be used in updating Communication Plan



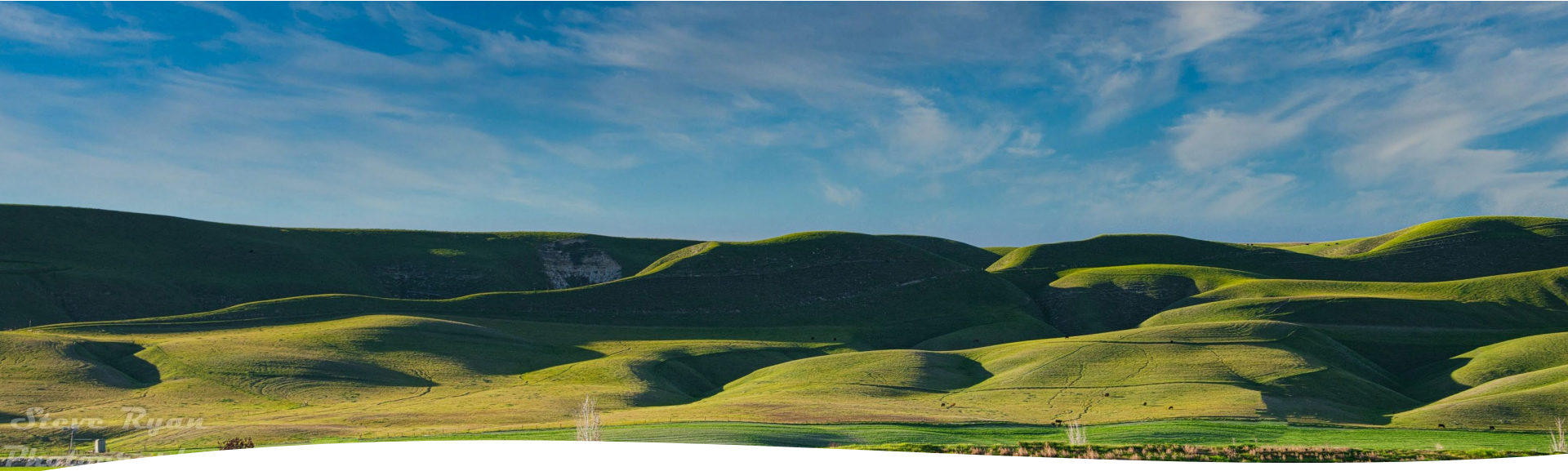
Communications and Engagement Plan Update

- Review existing plan to identify outdated tasks and issues
- Provide plan updates to reflect the new phase of work PRAGA is in and address stakeholder concerns as identified in public meetings and from the assessment

Direct Outreach

1. Outreach Planning and Coordination
2. Small Group (local) Workshops (4)





Public Workshop and Webinars

- Prepare for and facilitate 2 on-person public workshops
- Prepare for and facilitate 2 webinars



Informational Materials

- **3 Newsletters**-addressing GSP implementation activities, upcoming engagement opportunities, and key updates.
- **3 Handouts and Fact Sheets**- handouts or fact sheets to support small-group outreach meetings and public workshops, focused on specific implementation topics or frequently asked questions.



Questions?