



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

WHO: County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning & Building (CEQA Lead Agency)

WHAT: A Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the *Paso Basin Land Use Management Area (PBLUMA) Planting Ordinance* is complete and available for public review and comment. The document addresses the environmental impacts that may be associated with a new permanent ordinance framework that would allow the County to continue exercising its land use authority to regulate planting of production agriculture irrigated from groundwater wells within the PBLUMA after the termination date of the existing agricultural offset requirements. The new ordinance would also allow an exemption for farms to plant irrigated crops that were not able to be planted under the existing agricultural offset requirements. The proposed ordinance would require a planting permit or exemption verification for new or expanded planting of crops irrigated from groundwater wells within the PBLUMA. Issuance of planting permits allowed under the proposed ordinance would be considered ministerial and would not require discretionary actions. If adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December 2022, the proposed ordinance would be in effect from January 31, 2023 to January 31, 2045, for a total of 22 years. State Clearinghouse #2021080222.

The PBLUMA consists of 313,661 acres within unincorporated San Luis Obispo County, and includes the unincorporated communities of Shandon, San Miguel, Creston, and Whitley Gardens. The majority of land within the PBLUMA is designated as Agriculture, Rural Lands, and Residential Rural by the County's General Plan. Existing uses within the PBLUMA include agricultural uses, including seasonal grazing; residential, commercial, and industrial uses; and vacant, undeveloped land. The PBLUMA is bordered by Monterey County and agriculture uses to the north; grazing land to the east; agriculture uses, single-family residences, and the Los Padres National Forest to the south; and agriculture uses, single-family residences, Camp Roberts, the City of Paso Robles, and the City of Atascadero to the west. A map of the PBLUMA is available at the link below.

The project would consist of amendments to the County of San Luis Obispo (County) Land Use Ordinance (Title 22), Health and Sanitation Ordinance (Title 8), and Agriculture and Conservation and Open Space Elements of the County General Plan (LRP2021-00001).

WHERE: The Draft PEIR is available for review or downloading on the Department of Planning & Building's website at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Grid-Items/Community-Engagement/Active-Planning-Projects/Paso-Basin-Land-Use-Planting-Ordinance.aspx>. Copies of the Draft PEIR, and all documents referenced in the Draft PEIR, are also available for review at the County Department of Planning & Building, 976 Osos St., Rm 200, San Luis Obispo. Copies of the Draft PEIR are also available for review at the following County libraries: Atascadero Library and SLO City/ County Library (see SLOLIBRARY.org for hours and COVID-19 requirements).

HOW TO COMMENT OR GET MORE INFORMATION:

Anyone interested in commenting on the Draft PEIR should email their comments or questions to: pasoplanting@co.slo.ca.us or submit a written statement directed to Kylie Hensley of the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning & Building at 976 Osos St., Rm 200, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040. Comments must be received by **4:30 p.m., July 6, 2022.**

If you need more information about this project, please contact Airlin Singewald at (805) 781-5198. Note that the call will go to voicemail and be answered by private line within 48 hours.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Draft PEIR focuses on the following issues: Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities and Service Systems.

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15087(c)(6), there are no active Cortese listings (as described under Government Code Section 65962.5 and known as the "Cortese List") located in the project area.

****If you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this public notice or in written correspondence delivered to the appropriate authority at or before the public hearing****

DATED: May 23, 2022
Airlin Singewald
Planning Manager