

Grand Jury Report PBCC Responses
July 26, 2023

FINDINGS

F1. The combination of drought conditions and increased agricultural lands in production has resulted in an unsustainable decline in the Paso Basin.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F2. Since 1998 there has been over 700,000 AF reduction of groundwater storage resulting in dry wells for many rural residential properties and jeopardizing long-term agricultural viability.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F3. The current number and location of groundwater monitoring well data collected by the PBCC is insufficient for decision making.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F4. The PBCC currently does not require or have full access to the annual volume of groundwater pumping by all agricultural users to determine the extent of the demand on the basin.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F5. The GSP initiatives for feasible supplemental water options and conservation measures are insufficient to balance the basin. Basin recovery depends upon reduction in active agricultural production pumping.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F6. The failure of the PBCC to apply equitable pumping restrictions has resulted in continued decline of the Paso Basin.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F7. Public information and outreach on Paso Basin status is inadequate.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F8. Fees that would make the GSP self-sustaining are not uniformly applied across the GSAs. Unincorporated areas governed by the County are not collecting fees.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F9. Rural residential wells remain at risk. Many rural residential users lack the resources and means to correct the situation.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F10. There remains an inequity between rural properties in using groundwater for agricultural production under the 2013 County Planting Ordinance.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

F11. Management efforts have not advanced sufficiently to begin regulation of basin activities.

We Agree with this Finding

We Wholly or Partially Disagree with the Finding for the following reasons:
[text placeholder]

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The GSAs need to expedite their plans to expand the monitoring network for use in the 2025 GSP update.

- The recommendation has been implemented.
Summary regarding the implemented action:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
Timeframe for implementation:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation requires further analysis.
Explanation and scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Explanation:
[text placeholder]

R2. The GSAs need to employ the most accurate satellite data for determining groundwater utilization or adopt regulations which mandate reporting of groundwater extraction for agricultural production wells within the Paso Basin by the 2025 GSP update.

- The recommendation has been implemented.
Summary regarding the implemented action:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
Timeframe for implementation:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation requires further analysis.
Explanation and scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Explanation:

[text placeholder]

R3. Implementation of the proposed MILR Program, to establish voluntary land fallowing, needs to be initiated by the 2025 GSP update. If voluntary measures are ineffective, the PBCC will need to implement a mandatory program.

- The recommendation has been implemented.
Summary regarding the implemented action:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
Timeframe for implementation:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation requires further analysis.
Explanation and scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.
Explanation:
[text placeholder]

R4. The GSAs must establish and implement the necessary governance structure to build public trust and execute procedures up to and including formal regulations to define equitable groundwater extractions and enforcement mechanisms.

- The recommendation has been implemented.
Summary regarding the implemented action:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
Timeframe for implementation:
[text placeholder]
- The recommendation requires further analysis.
Explanation and scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report:
[text placeholder]

- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Explanation:

[text placeholder]

R5. GSAs should intensify outreach to solicit public input and educate residents and property owners, particularly those whose wells have run dry. Outreach should include the development of a collective single website for the PBCC.

- The recommendation has been implemented.

Summary regarding the implemented action:

[text placeholder]

- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Timeframe for implementation:

[text placeholder]

- The recommendation requires further analysis.

Explanation and scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report:

[text placeholder]

- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Explanation:

[text placeholder]

R9. For the 2025 GSP annual update, the Cooperative Committee should update the GSP timeline to show a realistic and deliverable set of management actions.

- The recommendation has been implemented.

Summary regarding the implemented action:

[text placeholder]

- The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Timeframe for implementation:

[text placeholder]

- The recommendation requires further analysis.

Explanation and scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department

being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report:

[text placeholder]

- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Explanation:

[text placeholder]