



SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT SHANDON-SAN JUAN GSA

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Shandon-San Juan Water District Adopts Resolution Opposing Groundwater Extraction Fees for Domestic Users in the Paso Robles Basin

Paso Robles, CA – At its March 26 meeting, the [Shandon-San Juan Water District \(SSJWD\)](#) Board of Directors unanimously adopted [a resolution](#) stating the District’s opposition to charging groundwater extraction fees to domestic or *de minimis* water users in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

As a member agency of the recently formed Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority, the SSJWD recognizes the critical role of collaborative water management in addressing the Basin’s long-term water sustainability challenges. However, the District opposes any proposed extraction fees on *de minimis* users — those who use two acre-feet or less of groundwater per year for household needs — as these fees would unfairly burden residents with minimal impact on overall water sustainability.

“Our Board firmly believes that small-scale groundwater users, particularly those relying on domestic wells for household use, should not bear the financial burden of groundwater extraction fees,” said Willy Cunha, President of the SSJWD Board. “Our commitment is to fair and equitable policies that prioritize Basin sustainability while ensuring minimal hardship on residents.”

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority, established as a Joint Powers Authority, was formed to coordinate the implementation of the [Paso Robles Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#) under the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\)](#). The Authority is tasked with ensuring the basin achieves sustainability by 2040 through a range of regulatory and financial measures, including potential groundwater extraction assessments or fees.

The issue of groundwater fees has been a point of contention in recent months, with some Basin landowners and residents expressing concerns over potential financial impacts and an equitable fee structure. The SSJWD’s adopted resolution underscores its advocacy for policies that protect Basin residents from undue economic strain while promoting responsible groundwater management.



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The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority will hold a public meeting on April 7 at 4 p.m. at the Paso Robles City Council Chambers (1000 Spring Street) to discuss groundwater management policies and a proposed fee structure to support ongoing SGMA compliance. The Shandon-San Juan Water District will advocate for a rate structure that protects *de minimis* users while imposing fair and equitable fees on other groundwater users to achieve SGMA compliance and long-term groundwater sustainability for the region.

About the Shandon-San Juan Water District:

The [Shandon-San Juan Water District](#), located in San Luis Obispo County, encompasses approximately 135,000 acres and serves as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The District collaborates with other local GSAs to implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, ensuring the responsible management of groundwater resources for the region's agricultural, residential and environmental needs.

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**SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT
SHANDON-SAN JUAN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

**RESOLUTION 25-001
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILL OF THE SHANDON SAN JUAN
WATER DISTRICT/GSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING
APPLICABILITY OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEES**

WHEREAS, the Shandon-San Juan Water District is a member of the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Authority may soon consider the adoption of assessments, fees or charges to fund implementation and enforcement of the Paso Robles Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

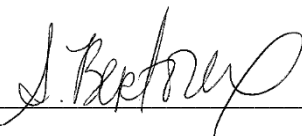
The Board wishes by this Resolution to formally state its position that in the event the Authority adopts a volumetric groundwater extraction fee, such fee should not be imposed on domestic or de minimis users of groundwater.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Shandon-San Juan Water District on March 26, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	4
NOES:	0
ABSTAINED:	0
ABSENT:	1

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said District as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on March 26, 2025.

WITNESS my hand of said Board of Directors, March 26, 2025.



Stephanie Bertoux
Secretary of the Board of Directors