



August 30, 2002  
Project No. 3014.005

County of San Luis Obispo  
Public Works Department  
County Government Center, Room 207  
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Attention: Ms. Christine Ferrara

**FINAL REPORT**  
**Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Study**

Dear Ms. Ferrara:

Fugro West and Cleath & Associates are pleased to submit this FINAL REPORT of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Study. The purpose of the project was to investigate the hydrogeologic conditions and quantify the water supply capability of the basin.

The study defined the lateral and vertical extent of the groundwater basin, evaluated groundwater flow and movement within the aquifer, reported on current water quality conditions and trends, and calculated the perennial yield of the basin. A single subbasin, the Atascadero subbasin, was defined as a hydrogeologically distinct portion of the basin

The study concluded that the perennial yield of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (including the Atascadero subbasin) is 94,000 acre feet per year under current conditions. The perennial yield of the Atascadero subbasin is 16,500 acre feet per year.

Basin pumpage in 2000 was approximately 82,600 af, compared to the perennial yield estimate of 94,000 afy. This statement must be tempered, however, because water demand and gross groundwater pumpage may increase in the future as the population of the region continues to grow, and as municipal and agricultural pressures on the basin increase. For instance, the San Luis Obispo County Master Water Plan Update projects 2020 water demands of 120,000 afy for the area covered by the Paso Robles basin. Furthermore, although the overall basin is relatively stable, concentrated pumping centers have created localized pumping depressions and declining water levels in parts of the basin. As an illustration, the area immediately east of the City of Paso Robles, along Highway 46 between Paso Robles and Whitley Gardens, has experienced dramatically declining water levels over the past five to ten years.





Pumpage in the Atascadero subbasin in the year 2000 was 11,100 af. The County Master Water Plan Update projects 2020 water demands in the subbasin area of approximately 16,000 to 20,000 afy.

In closing this phase of work for the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department, we would like to express our appreciation to the Public Works Department staff, the Technical Review Committee, and the North County Water Resources Forum for their interest and cooperation throughout the study. It has been both a pleasure and a challenge to conduct this investigation, which we know is of utmost importance to the community. We will remain available at your convenience to discuss this report or to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

FUGRO WEST, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Sorensen".

Paul A. Sorensen, RG, CHg  
Senior Hydrogeologist

CLEATH & ASSOCIATES

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy S. Cleath".

Timothy S. Cleath, RG, CHg  
Principal Hydrogeologist

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Gardner".

David A. Gardner, CEG, CHg  
Principal Hydrogeologist

