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State of California
Central Coast Water Board

**Fatal flaws in the current Basin Plan
(Why it will not preserve the Basin as a sustainable water source)**

The Plan does not address the drought or climate change.

The Plan does not maximize the seawater intrusion mitigation programs it proposes nor comply with related governmental mandates.

The Plan does not address major adverse impacts on the Basin.

The Plan fails to fulfill the purpose of the Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment.

The Plan fails to consider and incorporate the recommendations of experts.

The Plan fails to develop and apply management strategies and tools that protect the Basin, including modeling, analysis and margins of safety.

The Plan fails to implement an effective adaptive management program and contingency measures.

The Plan fails to set time-specific objectives or use the authority needed to ensure effective program implementation as early as possible.

Requested improvements.

Maximize the conservation program and comply with the Governor's Executive Order B-29-15.

Maximize recycled water use.

Maximize infrastructure programs.

Establish lower sustainable yields and production targets for the Basin.

Address adverse impacts from the drought, climate change, LOWWP, and pumping shifts—and develop specific contingency plans to avoid or minimize the impacts that could occur despite maximized mitigation programs.

Set time-specific objectives and benchmarks for maximizing Basin Plan programs and reversing seawater intrusion as soon as possible, and use all the rights and authorities available to water management agencies/entities to ensure objectives are met.

Apply decision-making strategies and criteria that prioritize preserving the Basin, including criteria for additional building over the Basin based on conclusive evidence that the Basin will sustain the added impact.

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MRS. U. YAM
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FACT SHEET ON LOS OSOS SEAWATER INTRUSION

Severity of Seawater Intrusion

1. Seawater has moved into the Basin since the 1970's, contaminating a large percentage of the Basin and permanently destroying much of it.
2. The most recent assessment in 2014 found seawater intrusion to be moving 3-4 times as fast as previously predicted.
3. Worsening seawater intrusion since 2005 raises the real possibility of losing the Basin because a) pumping had been cut back 30 to 40% since 2000, greatly reducing the overdraft, yet seawater intrusion accelerated, b) the severe seawater intrusion in Zone E could contaminate Zone D, and c) the 2014 assessment likely doesn't show the full adverse effects of the severe, on-going drought.

Severity of overdraft and low water levels (the two main causes of seawater intrusion)

1. Assuming "normal" rainfall of about 17 inches, the Basin has been overdrafted 750 to 1250 AFY annually (30 to 60%) for 35 years, and with the drought, overdraft is much worse.
2. In 2012, 90% of the water levels in the Basin were below the levels needed to stop seawater intrusion.

Main reasons the Basin Plan is not adequate to save the Basin

1. The Basin Plan recognizes the need to maximize mitigation programs and to take "bold, decisive, and immediate" action, but doesn't maximize programs or commit the Parties to immediate action.
2. The Basin Plan predicts yield will go up, buildout is possible, and seawater will be reversed mainly by moving wells, but the model does not account for the drought, climate change, or short-term LOWWP impacts, which can destroy the Basin, especially in combination.
3. The Basin Plan does not commit the Parties to taking all reasonable actions available to save the Basin, such as implementing ordinances.

What the WB can do

1. Intervene in the Basin Plan adjudication process and/or insist that the State Board does, to ensure the Basin Plan prioritizes and maximizes Basin sustainability, with much stronger mitigation programs and mechanisms to ensure they are implemented effectively as soon as possible.
2. Revise the Regional Basin Plan to include water quality objectives and related plans, programs, and policies to ensure Basin sustainability. (See previous LOSG recommendations.)

Why the WB must act now

The sustainability of the Basin, an irreplaceable sole water source for the area—on which the Los Osos Community and Morro Bay National Estuary depend—will not be achieved without a stronger plan that emphasizes resource sustainability over development.