
PART I: BACKGROUND ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EFFORT

2.1 WATER PLANNING AREAS

The Master Water Plan (MWP) effort is organized similar to the 1998 MWP, but with some modifications. This MWP is also organized by topical and geographical discussion. The County was divided into three sub-regions, North Coast, South Coast, and Inland, and was subdivided further into “Water Planning Areas,” or WPAs. The WPAs represent the geographical organization of the County. Water demand, agricultural water needs, sources of supply, and other information are organized by WPA. The WPAs discussed below were intended to recognize important hydrogeologic units or water management areas throughout the County.

In general, the following types of information (hydrogeologic variations, natural and political boundaries) were used to define the WPAs, but no single approach was followed to delineate every WPA:

- Watershed boundaries
- Groundwater basin boundaries
- Urban growth boundaries
- Water supplies and management practices
- Similar demands and climate
- Similar water supply issues

2.1.1 North Coast Sub-Region

The North Coast Sub-Region shown in Figure 2.1 spans from the County line (San Luis Obispo/Monterey) southward to the community of Los Osos, bounded to the west by the Pacific Ocean and to the east by the Santa Lucia Range. This Sub-Region includes WPAs 1 through 5. This region includes the urban areas of San Simeon, Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay and Los Osos, and are numbered sequentially in this order.

2.1.1.1 San Simeon WPA 1

The San Simeon WPA encompasses the community of San Simeon, Hearst Ranch, agricultural and other rural overlying users in the northern-most portion of WPA 1. The primary groundwater supplies include the San Carpoforo, Arroyo De La Cruz, and Pico Creek Valley Groundwater Basins. The issues in this WPA include seawater intrusion and limited groundwater basin yield.

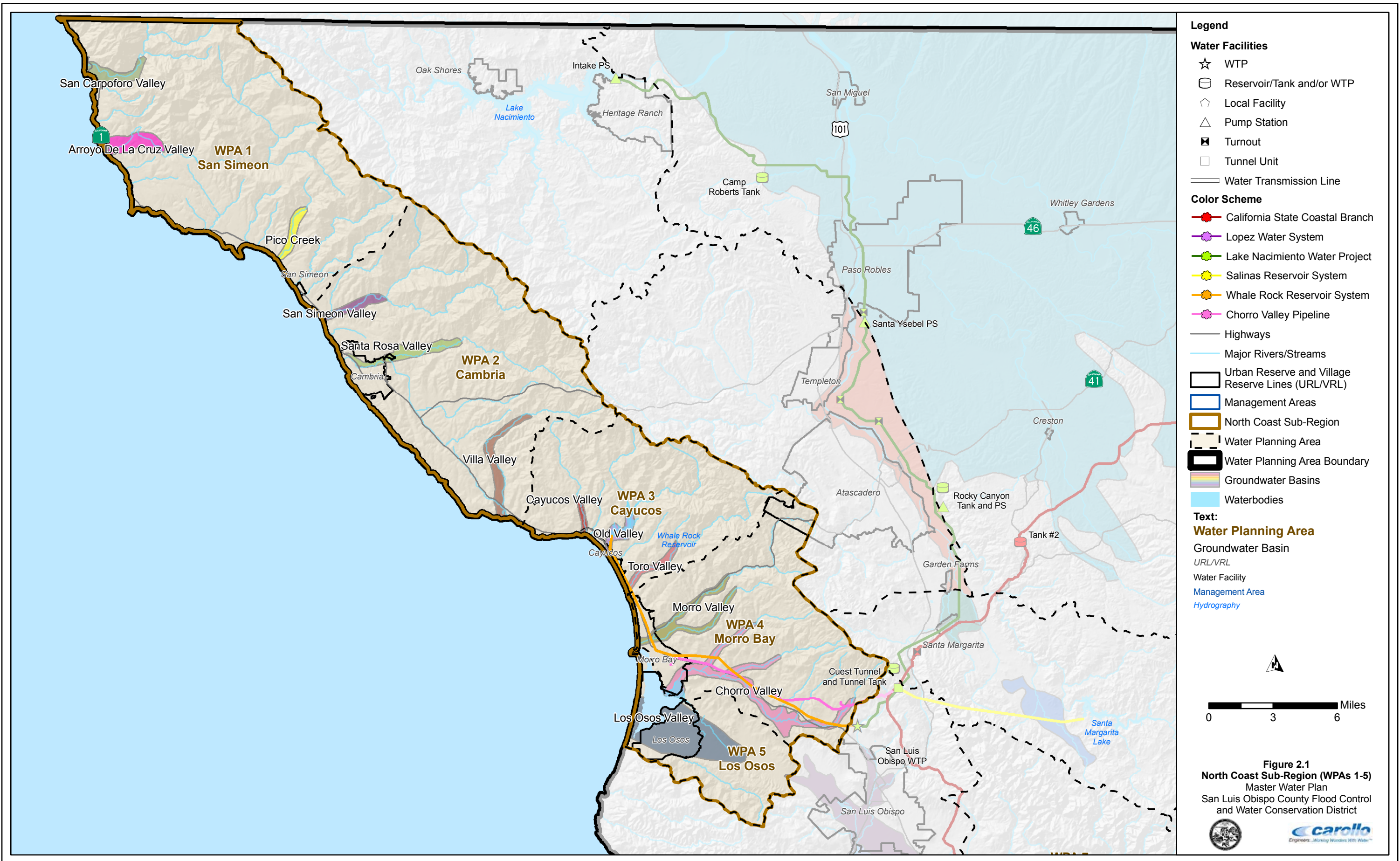


Figure 2.1
North Coast Sub-Region (WPAs 1-5)
 Master Water Plan
 San Luis Obispo County Flood Control
 and Water Conservation District



2.1.1.2 Cambria WPA 2

The Cambria WPA includes the community of Cambria, agricultural and other rural overlying users. The primary groundwater supplies include the San Simeon, Santa Rosa, and Villa Valley Groundwater Basins. The issues in this WPA include the potential for seawater intrusion, drought impacts to groundwater supplies, and limited groundwater basin yield.

2.1.1.3 Cayucos WPA 3

The Cayucos WPA includes the Cayucos Area Water Organization (CAWO) members (Morro Rock Mutual Water Company, Paso Robles Beach Mutual Water Company, County Service Area 10A, and the Cayucos Cemetery District), agricultural and other rural overlying users. The primary groundwater supplies include the Cayucos, Old and Torro Valley Groundwater Basins. CAWO members receive potable water predominantly from Whale Rock Reservoir. The issues in this WPA include drought impacts to groundwater supplies and limited groundwater basin yield.

2.1.1.4 Morro Bay WPA 4

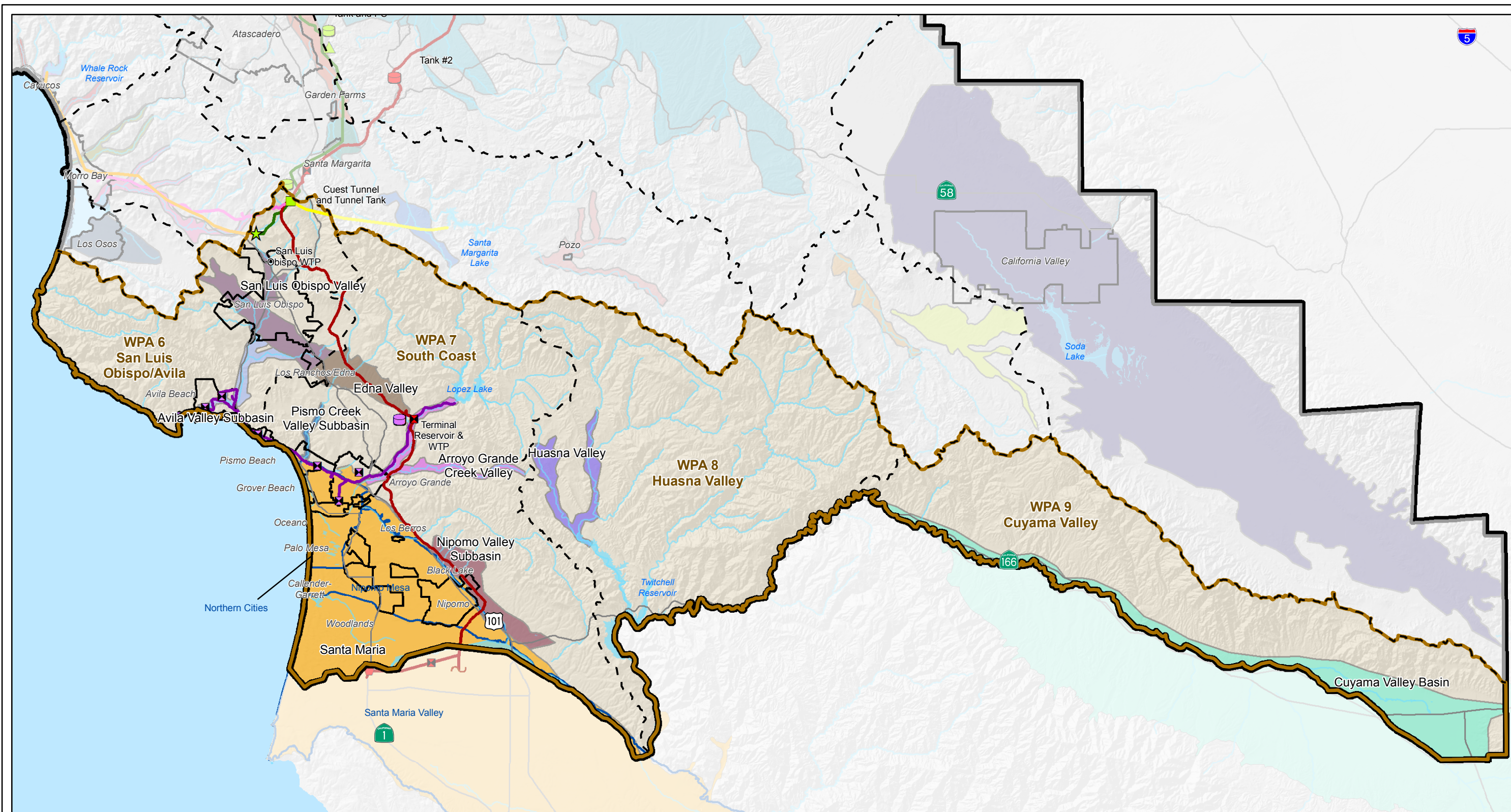
The Morro Bay WPA includes the City of Morro Bay, the Chorro Valley Water System (California Men's Colony, Cuesta College, Camp San Luis Obispo (National Guard), County Operations Center/Office of Education), agricultural and other rural overlying users. The only groundwater supplies include the Morro and Chorro Valley Groundwater Basins. Other major supply sources include the State Water Project, desalination (City of Morro Bay), Whale Rock Reservoir, Chorro Reservoir, and recycled water. The issues in this WPA include drought impacts to groundwater supplies and groundwater quality, and availability/reliability of State Water from year to year.

2.1.1.5 Los Osos WPA 5

The Los Osos WPA includes the community of Los Osos, agricultural and other rural overlying users. The primary groundwater supply is the Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin. The issues in this WPA include drought impacts to groundwater supplies, groundwater quality and documented seawater intrusion.

2.1.2 South Coast Sub-Region

The South Coast Sub-Region shown in Figure 2.2 spans from the City of San Luis Obispo south to the County (San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara) line, east to the Cuyama Valley, and west to the community of Avila Beach, and includes WPA 6 through 9. This WPA includes the urban areas of San Luis Obispo, Avila Beach/Port San Luis, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Oceano, and Nipomo.



Legend		Color Scheme		Water Planning Area		Text:		 Figure 2.2 South Coast Sub-Region (WPAs 6-9) Master Water Plan San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Water Facilities ☆ WTP ☐ Reservoir/Tank and/or WTP ○ Local Facility	△ Pump Station ☒ Turnout □ Tunnel Unit — Water Transmission Line	● California State Coastal Branch ● Lopez Water System ● Lake Nacimiento Water Project	● Salinas Reservoir System ● Whale Rock Reservoir System ● Chorro Valley Pipeline ● Highways	— Major Rivers/Streams ☐ Urban Reserve and Village Reserve Lines (URL/VRL) ☐ Management Areas ☐ South Coast Sub-Region	- - - Water Planning Area ☐ Water Planning Area Boundary ☐ Groundwater Basins ☐ Waterbodies	Water Planning Area Groundwater Basin URL/VRL Water Facility Management Area Hydrography	0 4 8 Miles	



2.1.2.1 San Luis Obispo/Avila WPA 6

The San Luis Obispo/Avila WPA includes the City of San Luis Obispo, County Airport, Cal Poly, Avila Beach Community Services District (Avila Beach CSD), Avila Valley Mutual Water Company (Avila Valley MWC), San Miguelito Mutual Water Company (San Miguelito MWC), County Service Area 12 (CSA 12), Port San Luis, agricultural and other rural overlying users. The primary groundwater supplies include the San Luis and Avila Valley Sub-basins. Other major supply sources include the State Water Project, Whale Rock Reservoir, Salinas Reservoir, Nacimiento Water Project, Lopez Lake Reservoir, and recycled water. The issues in this WPA include limited groundwater supplies.

2.1.2.2 South Coast WPA 7

The South Coast WPA includes Edna Valley (Golden State Water Company); the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA), which includes the Cities of Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach, Oceano Community Services District, agricultural and rural overlying users; the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA), which includes the Golden State Water Company, Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD), Rural Water Company, Woodlands Mutual Water Company (Woodlands MWC), ConocoPhillips, agricultural and rural overlying users; the Santa Maria Valley Management Area (SMVMA), which includes the City of Santa Maria, agricultural and rural users; and agricultural and rural users outside of the three management areas.

The primary groundwater supplies include the Edna, Pismo Creek, and Arroyo Grande Valley Sub-basins, the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin, and the Pismo Formation. Other major supply sources include the State Water Project, Lopez Lake Reservoir, and recycled water. A potential water supply project is the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project. The issues in this WPA include adjudicated groundwater basins, limited groundwater supply, and to some extent groundwater quality.

2.1.2.3 Huasna Valley WPA 8

The Huasna Valley WPA includes agricultural and rural users only. There are no large population centers with urban demands in this WPA. The primary groundwater supply is the Huasna Valley Groundwater Basin. The issue in this WPA includes limited available data on the groundwater supply's safe yield.

2.1.2.4 Cuyama Valley WPA 9

The Cuyama Valley WPA includes agricultural and rural users, and some oil fields. There are no large population centers with urban demands in this WPA. The primary groundwater supply is the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin. Twenty-two percent of basin is in San Luis Obispo County, and the remainder of the basin resides in the counties of Santa Barbara, Kern, and Ventura. There is no separate yield estimate for the San Luis Obispo

County portion. The primary issues in this WPA include critical overdraft of the groundwater basin and water quality.

2.1.3 Inland Sub-Region

The Inland Sub-Region shown in Figure 2.3 essentially includes the WPAs that do not drain directly to the ocean, and includes WPA 10 through 16. The Inland sub-region therefore extends inland from the San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara County line north to the San Luis Obispo/Monterey County line, bounded to the east by Kern and Fresno Counties, and to the west in part by the Santa Lucia range.

2.1.3.1 Carrizo Plain WPA 10

The Carrizo Plain WPA includes agricultural and rural users, and potentially future solar farms. There are no large population centers with urban demands in this WPA. The primary groundwater supply is the Carrizo Plain Groundwater Basin. The primary issues in this WPA include water quality and limited groundwater supply.

2.1.3.2 Rafael/Big Spring WPA 11

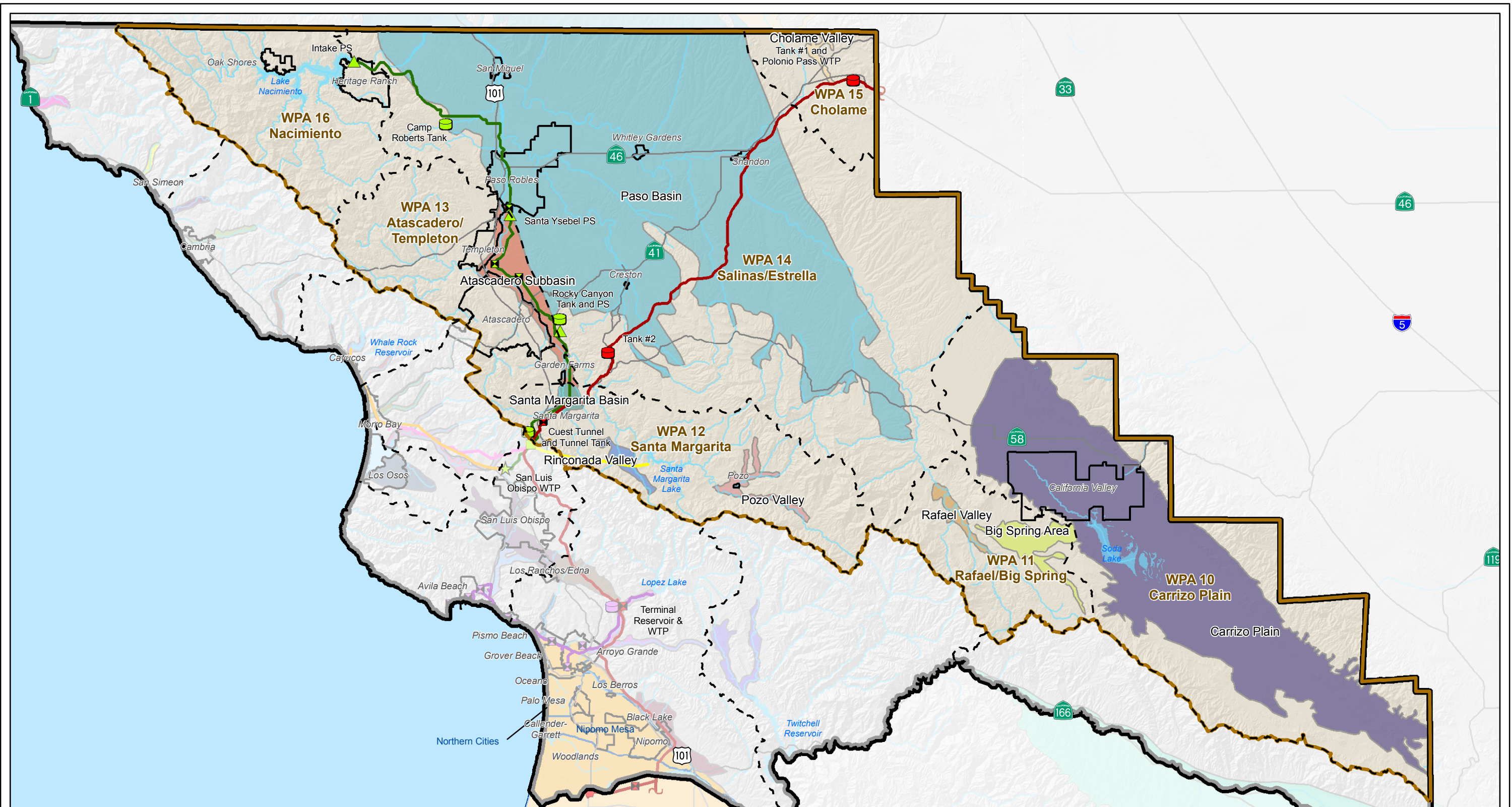
The Rafael/Big Spring WPA includes agricultural and rural users only. There are no large population centers with urban demands in this WPA. The primary groundwater supplies are the Rafael and Big Spring Valley Groundwater Basins. The issue in this WPA includes limited available data on the groundwater basin's safe yield.

2.1.3.3 Santa Margarita WPA 12

The Santa Margarita WPA includes Santa Margarita Ranch, County Service Area 23, agricultural and rural users. The primary sources of water supply for this WPA are the Santa Margarita, Rinconada, and Pozo Valley Groundwater Basins, and the Santa Margarita Creek Alluvial Aquifer. The primary issues in this WPA include limited available data on basin safe yield and limited groundwater supply.

2.1.3.4 Atascadero/Templeton WPA 13

The Atascadero/Templeton WPA includes the Templeton Community Services District (Templeton CSD), Atascadero Mutual Water Company, Garden Farms Community Water District, agricultural and rural users. The primary sources of water supply for this WPA are the Atascadero Groundwater Sub-basin (Paso Robles Formation and Salinas River Underflow), recycled water, and the Nacimiento Water Project. The issues in this WPA include limited basin yield and State managed water rights to the Salinas River underflow.



Legend		Color Scheme		Text:	
Water Facilities	△ Pump Station	● Salinas Reservoir System	— Major Rivers/Streams	Water Planning Area	Water Planning Area Groundwater Basin URL/VRL Water Facility Management Area Hydrography
☆ WTP	▣ Turnout	● Whale Rock Reservoir System	▭ Urban Reserve and Village Reserve Lines (URL/VRL)	Water Planning Area Boundary	
○ Reservoir/Tank and/or WTP	□ Tunnel Unit	● Lopez Water System	▭ Management Areas	Groundwater Basins	
◇ Local Facility	— Water Transmission Line	● Lake Nacimiento Water Project	▭ Inland Sub-Region	Waterbodies	
		● Chorro Valley Pipeline			
		— Highways			0 5 10 Miles

Figure 2.3
Inland Sub-Region (WPAs 10-16)
 Master Water Plan
 San Luis Obispo County Flood Control
 and Water Conservation District

2.1.3.5 Salinas/Estrella WPA 14

The Salinas/Estrella WPA includes the San Miguel Community Services District (San Miguel CSD), Camp Roberts, City of Paso Robles, County Service Area 16 (Shandon), agricultural and rural users. The primary sources of water supply for this WPA are the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Paso Robles Formation and Salinas River Underflow) and the Nacimiento Water Project. The issues in this WPA include water quality, State-managed water rights to Salinas River underflow, and declining groundwater levels.

2.1.3.6 Cholame WPA 15

The Cholame WPA includes agricultural and rural users only. There are no large population centers with urban demands in this WPA. The primary groundwater supply is the Cholame Valley Groundwater Basin. The issue in this WPA includes limited available data on the groundwater quality and basin safe yield.

2.1.3.7 Nacimiento WPA 16

The Nacimiento WPA includes Oak Shores, Heritage Ranch Community Services District, agricultural and rural users. The primary source of water supply for this WPA is Lake Nacimiento. The issue in this WPA is water supply reliability.

2.2 WATER SERVICE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND OTHER COORDINATION EFFORTS

This section discusses the various cooperative agreements and other inter-agency coordination efforts related to water supply throughout the County. A brief overview of these agreements and efforts is provided, listed in order by WPA:

- WPA 3, 4 and 6 - Whale Rock Reservoir Water Supply
- WPA 4 - City of Morro Bay/Whale Rock Commission
- WPA 4 – Chorro Valley Water System
- WPA 4, 6, 7 and 14 - State Water Contract
- WPA 5 – Los Osos Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ)
- WPA 6 – Santa Margarita Lake/Salinas Reservoir
- WPA 6 and 7 - Lopez Lake Zone 3 Water Supply Project
- WPA 7 – Groundwater Management Agreement/Northern Cities Management Area
- WPA 7 – Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA)
- WPA 4, 6, 13 and 14 - Nacimiento Water Supply Project
- WPA 13 and 14 - Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan and Basin Agreement

2.2.1 WPA 3, 4 and 6 – Whale Rock Reservoir Water Supply

Whale Rock Reservoir is located on Old Creek Road approximately one-half mile east of the community of Cayucos. The project was planned, designed, and constructed under the supervision of the State Department of Water Resources. Construction took place between October 1958 and April 1961. The reservoir is jointly owned by the City of San Luis Obispo, the California Men's Colony (CMC), and Cal Poly. These three agencies, with the addition of a representative from the Department of Water Resources, form the Whale Rock Commission, which is responsible for operational policy and administration of the reservoir and related facilities. Day-to-day operation is provided by the City of San Luis Obispo.

Several agreements establish policy for the operation of the Whale Rock system and actions of the member agencies. These agreements cover aspects such as distribution of capital costs for the project construction, operations and apportionment of operations costs, downstream water rights, fish and wildlife protection, and other items.

In April 1996, the downstream water rights agreement was amended and replaced with a new agreement, establishing water entitlements for adjacent and downstream water users. The downstream water users (Cayucos Area Water Organization or CAWO) affected by this agreement consist of three public water purveyors and the cemetery, plus two other rural/agricultural users, all in the Cayucos area. These agencies are the Paso Robles Beach Water Association, Morro Rock Mutual Water Company, County Service Area 10A, and Cayucos-Morro Bay Cemetery District.

2.2.2 WPA 4 - City of Morro Bay/Whale Rock Commission

A mutual aid agreement exists between the Whale Rock Commission and the City of Morro Bay, dated 2000, relative to water resources in the event of an emergency. The SWP shuts down for annual maintenance activities each fall/winter during which the City has used its alternative supplies. In 2008, the SWP shutdown took place also when groundwater quality issues were limiting the City's use of well water. The shortfall was made up for through this agreement with CMC to provide Morro Bay with water during that period. Treated Whale Rock water from CMC water treatment plant is conveyed to Morro Bay via the Chorro Valley Pipeline.

2.2.3 WPA 4 - Chorro Valley Water System

The Chorro Valley Water System includes these entities: CMC, Camp San Luis Obispo, Cuesta College, and San Luis Obispo County Operations Center/Office of Education. CMC operates a water treatment plant to provide potable water to CMC facilities and wheels water to Camp San Luis Obispo, Cuesta College, County Operations Center (which includes Fleet Services, Water Quality Lab, Juvenile Detention Center, County Jail, Office of Emergency Services), and County Office of Education. These entities have several inter-entity agreements relating to entitlements to their shared water supplies, which include

Whale Rock Water, Chorro Reservoir, and State Water. Camp San Luis Obispo also has first rights to one on-site well (County Well No. 1).

2.2.4 WPA 4, 6, 7, and 14 -State Water Project

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) owns and operates the State Water Project (SWP). It is the largest state-built water and power project in the United States. The SWP first started delivering water to Californians in the 1960s. In 1963, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) contracted with DWR for 25,000 acre feet per year (AFY) of State Water. However, the Central Coast was not served with State Water until 1997 when the Coastal Branch conveyance and treatment facilities, serving Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, were completed.

The treatment facility for State Water delivered through the Coastal Branch, Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant (PPWTP), is owned, operated and maintained by the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) for users in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. The Coastal Branch conveyance system is owned by DWR, which also operates and maintains the raw water portion of the system. The treated water portion is operated and maintained by CCWA. Agreements between CCWA, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) and DWR are in place to establish these roles and relationships.

Upon initiation of the development of the Coastal Branch in the early 1990s, entities within the District came forward with Water Service Amount (WSA) requests for portions of the District's allocation of State Water. After extensive policy discussions regarding the use of State Water, the District entered into Water Supply Agreements with the agencies identified in Chapter 3, Table 3.5, and Master Water Treatment and Coastal Branch construction agreements with CCWA for treatment of and associated delivery capacity for 4,830 AFY of State Water.

Water purveyors receiving State Water include the following:

- WPA 4 - City of Morro Bay, CMC, County Operations Center, Cuesta College
- WPA 6 - San Miguelito MWC, Avila Beach CSD, Avila Valley MWC, San Luis Coastal USD.
- WPA 7 - City of Pismo Beach and Oceano CSD.
- WPA 14 - Shandon (not currently receiving – anticipated to receive in 2013).

2.2.5 WPA 5 – Los Osos Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ)

The following three water purveyors serve the community of Los Osos:

- Los Osos Community Services District (Los Osos CSD)

- S & T Mutual Water Company (S&T MWC)
- Golden State Water Company (GSWC)

These three water agencies and overlying water users utilize the same groundwater basin in the Los Osos Valley. The three local water purveyors, along with the County of San Luis Obispo, are currently preparing a Basin Management Plan under a court-approved Interlocutory Stipulated Judgment (ISJ).

2.2.6 WPA 6 – Santa Margarita Lake/Salinas Reservoir

The Salinas Dam was built in 1941 by the War Department to supply water to Camp San Luis Obispo and, secondarily, to meet the water needs of the City of San Luis Obispo. The Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake) captures water from a 112 square mile watershed and can currently store up to 23,843 acre-feet (AF). In 1947, the Salinas Dam and delivery system was transferred from the regular Army to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since 1965, the District has operated this water supply for the City under a lease from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Water from the reservoir is pumped through the Cuesta Tunnel (a one mile long tunnel through the mountains of the Cuesta Ridge) and then flows by gravity to the City’s Water Treatment Plant on Stenner Creek Road. Transfer of dam ownership to the District from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers is under consideration.

2.2.7 WPA 7 – Groundwater Management Agreement/Northern Cities Management Area

The Northern Cities (including the cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Pismo Beach, and the Oceano Community Services District) have a long history of cooperatively managing the groundwater underlying the Northern Cities area. The 1983 “Gentlemen’s Agreement,” as amended, was reaffirmed in a 2002 Agreement Regarding the Management of the Arroyo Grande Groundwater Basin (“2002 Groundwater Management Agreement”). The 2002 Groundwater Management Agreement was incorporated into the 2005 Stipulation, which was ultimately affirmed by the Court within the 2008 Judgment. For more information on the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin litigation, see section 4.2.2.2.3.

The 2002 Groundwater Management Agreement established a safe yield for the Arroyo Grande Groundwater Basin of 9,500 AFY. The safe yield included subdivisions for agricultural irrigation (5,300 AFY), subsurface flow to the ocean (200 AFY) and urban uses (4,000 AFY). It also provided that urban groundwater allocations can be increased when land within the incorporated boundaries is converted from agricultural uses to urban uses, referred to as an agricultural conversion credit, or “ag credit.” Accordingly, the Cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach have increased their groundwater allocations through the conversion of agricultural uses to urban uses within their service areas. The 2010 Annual Report for the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) summarizes the groundwater allocations for the Northern Cities as follows:

Groundwater Allotment (from 2002 Groundwater Management Agreement), AFY			
Urban Area	Agreement), AFY	Ag Credit, AFY	Total, AFY
Arroyo Grande	1,202	112	1,314
Grover Beach	1,198	209	1,407
Pismo Beach	700	0	700
Oceano CSD	900	0	900
Total	4,000	321	4,321

In addition to the monitoring and reporting requirements described in the Stipulation, representatives from the NCMA frequently meet and coordinate with representatives from the Nipomo Mesa Management Area and the Santa Maria Valley Management Area (SMVMA) through the SMVMA's Technical Subcommittee.

2.2.8 WPA 6 and 7 – Lopez Lake Zone 3 Water Supply Project

The District completed the Lopez Dam in 1968 to provide a reliable water supply for agricultural and municipal needs as well as flood protection for coastal communities. Allocations for Lopez water are based on a percentage of the safe yield of the reservoir, 8,730 AFY. Of that amount, 4,530 AFY are for pipeline deliveries and 4,200 AFY are reserved for downstream releases. The dam, terminal reservoir, treatment and conveyance facilities are a part of Flood Control Zone 3.

There are two reports under development that relate to Zone 3 operations and water supply management. The Arroyo Grande Habitat Conservation Plan addresses downstream releases and coordination of reservoir storage operations with ecosystem needs and water rights. Additionally, a study is being conducted to consider the feasibility of modifying the dam to augment capacity of the reservoir.

The agencies that contract for Lopez water in Zone 3 include the communities of Oceano, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and County Service Area (CSA) 12 (including the Avila Beach area).

2.2.9 WPA 7 – Nipomo Mesa Management Area

The Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA) is part of the Santa Maria Valley groundwater basin adjudicated area. Basin groundwater users in the NMMA include Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company, Woodlands, ConocoPhillips, Nipomo Community Services District, Lucia Mar Unified School District, small public water systems (serving residential, industrial and nursery/greenhouse operations), and commercial, agricultural and residential overlying users.

The Nipomo Mesa area is currently in a certified Level of Severity III for water supply (resource capacity has been met or exceeded), as defined by San Luis Obispo County. The

County's Level of Severity III led to the preparation of a water conservation ordinance (SLO County Code, Title 8 Chapter 8.92, effective September 25, 2008).

The NMMA Technical Group has established a groundwater monitoring plan that uses coastal and inland key wells to assess the condition of the basin. The 2008 Annual Report indicates that a potentially severe water shortage condition exists. This condition calls for voluntary actions under a response plan, with recommendations to draft a Well Management Plan and a conceptual plan to identify specific actions to be taken (NMMA Technical Group, 2009). Efforts to better understand groundwater conditions in the NMMA continue, and in addition to the monitoring and reporting requirements described in the Stipulation, representatives from the NMMA frequently meet and coordinate with representatives from the Northern Cities Management Area and the SMVMA through the SMVMA's Technical Subcommittee.

2.2.10 WPA 4, 6, 13 and 14 - Nacimiento Water Supply Project

The Nacimiento Dam was constructed in 1957 by Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (now known as the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA)). The dam and reservoir continue to be operated by MCWRA. The lake has a capacity of 377,900 acre feet and a surface area of 5,727 acres. Water is collected from a 324 square mile watershed that is comprised of grazing lands and rugged wilderness.

In 1959, the District secured the rights to 17,500 AFY from Lake Nacimiento, with 1,750 AFY reserved for lakeside users and the Heritage Ranch Community Services District (CSD). After a long series of studies and negotiations, the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) was initiated. The NWP is the single largest project that the District has ever undertaken. The total project cost, including design, construction, construction management, environmental permitting, and right-of-way, is approximately \$176 million. Raw water deliveries recently began in 2010, with the City of San Luis Obispo taking first water deliveries at the Stenner Creek WTP.

Current NWP subscribers have contracted for a total of 9,655 AFY of the available 15,750 AFY, and include:

- WPA 4, CSA 10A (via exchange)
- WPA 6, City of San Luis Obispo
- WPA 13, Templeton CSD, Atascadero MWC
- WPA 14, City of Paso Robles

Heritage Ranch CSD's allocation of Nacimiento Reservoir water of 1,100 AFY is part of the 1,750 AFY reserved for County residents in the Lake Nacimiento area. It is sufficient to provide water for build-out demand, but the configuration of the delivery system (drawing from the river downstream of the Nacimiento Dam) leaves the Heritage Ranch CSD vulnerable to a cut off of its water supply in an extreme drought. Heritage Ranch CSD,

under mandate by California Department of Public Health, is currently in the process of developing an emergency water supply project. As part of this project, the County of San Luis Obispo and County of Monterey are currently in the process of reviewing water rights and operational issues of Nacimiento Dam under such drought conditions when the lake levels reach dead pool elevation (elevation at which water no longer can be released by gravity through the dam).

2.2.11 WPA 13 and 14 - Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan and Basin Agreement

2.2.11.1 Paso Robles Groundwater Management Plan

The Paso Robles Basin Regional Groundwater Management Plan (Groundwater Management Plan) was prepared coincident with other ongoing studies to develop a stakeholder-driven voluntary plan to provide a framework for future groundwater management activities. This project was funded by a grant from the Local Groundwater Assistance Act of 2000 (California Water Code Section 10795 et seq.) to provide grants to public agencies to conduct groundwater studies or to carry out groundwater monitoring and management activities.

The purpose of the Groundwater Management Plan is to develop a common understanding of the groundwater issues and management opportunities in the Paso Robles Basin and identify and support projects such as conjunctive use, recycled wastewater, and demand management, which will improve groundwater management. Following development of the Groundwater Management Plan, the goal is to implement the activities identified in the plan to achieve the Basin Management Objectives that are identified in the plan.

The effects of these groundwater management activities are expected to result in changed groundwater conditions, which are monitored and reported to the agencies, interested parties, and stakeholders.

2.2.11.2 Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Agreement

The Agreement was entered into on August 19, 2005 by the District, several overlying landowners who have organized as the Paso Robles Imperiled Overlying Rights (PRIOR) group, and the City of Paso Robles and County Service Area No. 16 (collectively referred to as Municipal Users). Since 2005, additional overlying landowners and the San Miguel Community Services District, as a Municipal User, have also signed the Agreement. The Agreement requires the District to declare the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin to be in a state of overdraft, when appropriate, at which point a period of time is conferred to allow overlying landowners sufficient time to react to such a declaration. In the Agreement, the District serves as the technical advisor to both the Landowners and Municipal Users.

The Agreement recognizes the need for monitoring and appropriate management of the existing basin supplies and also recognizes that bringing additional water resources to the basin could delay or avoid entirely the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin becoming

overdrafted in the future. The Agreement also recognizes signatories' desire to preserve their respective groundwater rights, notwithstanding implementation of any management measures, thereby providing the framework for cooperation among the Landowners and Municipal Users to participate in the development of a groundwater management plan.

2.3 RESOURCE AGENCIES

This section discusses and recognizes the roles of the non-purveyor type entities (i.e. State agencies, agricultural groups, and environmental groups) that have some involvement in water resources management/issues, such as resource conservation districts, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 3) and State Water Resources Control Board, State Department of Water Resources (DWR), Morro Bay Estuary program, Central Coast Vineyard Team, San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau and others. It is important to understand their influence and involvement on water resources management efforts within the County, and that they have either contributed to the development of this Master Water Plan, or should be coordinated with in future efforts to better understand the conditions in different water planning areas.

2.3.1 State Agencies

DWR – The State DWR mission statement is “To manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State’s people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments.” DWR programs and roles include development and implementation of the California Water Plan, grant program administration, conservation and urban water management planning regulation, groundwater basin and watershed planning/management, State Water Project ownership and operation, and a number of other functions. Excerpts from the California Water Plan are utilized in the Water Management Strategies discussion of this MWP.

State/Regional Water Board – The State Water Board’s mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. The Water Boards regulate wastewater discharges to surface water (rivers, ocean, etc.) and to groundwater (via land). The Water Boards also regulate storm water discharges from construction, industrial, and municipal activities; discharges from irrigated agriculture; dredge and fill activities; the alteration of any federal water body under the 401 certification program; and a number of other activities with practices that could degrade water quality. Their programs also address water rights, grant program administration, and guidance to assist with these efforts. From the State Board web site; programs offered by the State and Regional Board include biosolids, dredge/fill (401) wetlands, irrigated lands, land disposal (landfills, waste piles), waste discharge requirements (non-Subchapter 15), NPDES Surface Water, recycled water, sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater, and timber harvest activities.

2.3.2 Agricultural Organizations

These include, among others, the San Luis Obispo Coastal and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCDs, University of California Davis Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, San Luis Obispo Cattlemen's Association, Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance, Central Coast Vineyard Team and entities representing particular crop types – each have a variety of roles which may include conservation and water quality efforts, data collection, special studies, policy review, and overall stakeholder review of issues.

2.3.3 Environmental Organizations

These include, among others, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, Sierra Club, Morro Bay National Estuary Program and Coast Keepers - each have a variety of roles, which may include conservation and water quality efforts, data collection, special studies, policy review, and overall stakeholder review of issues.