



# Atascadero Groundwater Basin

*Basin Boundary Modification Request*

February 2016

The property owners overlying the proposed Atascadero Basin, in collaboration with the Templeton Community Services District (TCSD), City of Atascadero, and Atascadero Mutual Water Company (collectively Basin Stakeholders), are working together to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that will develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Atascadero Basin in compliance with the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Basin Stakeholders are looking to sustainably manage the groundwater resources of the Atascadero Basin in a coordinated and cooperative manner with groundwater management activities in the greater Paso Robles Basin.

As part of the SGMA process, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has established a process to modify groundwater basin boundaries to support sustainable groundwater management; see [http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/basin\\_boundaries.cfm](http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/basin_boundaries.cfm). The Basin Boundary Modification process provides local agencies and stakeholders the opportunity to get their basin boundaries formally recognized to support their efforts to sustainably manage groundwater.

## **The Process for Basin Boundary Adjustment**

DWR developed a specific process for basin boundary adjustment requests, requiring that an agency overlying the basin act as the requesting agency, conduct outreach to interested parties, and prepare an application. Basin boundary adjustments may be made on a scientific or jurisdictional basis.

For a scientific basis, there must be geologic or geohydrologic evidence to support the proposed change in the existing basin boundary. Examples of such evidence include the presence of an impermeable fault zone or the absence of groundwater where it was previously thought to exist. Jurisdictional adjustments may not coincide with a physical feature but commonly aid in the overall management of groundwater by recognizing the jurisdiction of overlying entities.

Two scientific modifications are being considered for the proposed Atascadero Groundwater Basin.

- An **External Basin Boundary Modification** is proposed for the northern and western boundaries of Atascadero Basin based on updated surface geology mapping.
- An **Internal Basin Boundary Modification** is proposed for the eastern boundary along the Rinconada Fault that separates the proposed Atascadero Groundwater Basin from the Paso Robles Area Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118 No. 3-4.06).

The application for a scientific modification must include both historical and technical components, as well as information on how the proposed modification may impact sustainable groundwater management. In addition to conducting outreach to affected parties, the requesting agency must prepare an application to be submitted to DWR between January 1, 2016, and March 31, 2016.

## Atascadero Groundwater Basin Background

The Atascadero Basin is a hydraulically distinct portion of the Paso Robles Area Subbasin, which is itself a portion of the larger Salinas Basin No. 3-4 as defined by DWR in Bulletin 118 (1975, 1980, 2003, and 2004 update). According to Bulletin 118 (update 2/27/2004), the Paso Robles Area Basin is bordered on the north by the Upper Valley Aquifer Subbasin of the Salinas Basin.

Bulletin 118 (update 2/27/2004) describes the water-bearing formations of the basin to include the Holocene-age alluvium found in river gravels throughout the basin, and the Pleistocene-age Paso Robles Formation. Bulletin 118 further describes that the Rinconada fault zone forms a leaky barrier that significantly restricts flow from the Atascadero Basin to the main part of the Paso Robles Basin.

Other studies published after Bulletin 118 identified that the Rinconada fault forms a clear and distinct hydraulic separation along approximately 85% of the boundary between the Atascadero Basin and the main Paso Robles Basin. This hydraulic separation and discontinuity, which forms part of the boundary, is based on the juxtaposition of basin aquifer sediments west of the fault (in the Atascadero Basin) against impermeable bedrock east of the fault. Along the remaining approximately 15% of the boundary between the two basins, there appears to be some hydraulic communication between the Atascadero Basin and the Paso Robles Basin; however there is a clear distinction between the two basins based on differences in groundwater levels and differences in groundwater level change trends between the two basins. While groundwater levels in the western portion of the Paso Robles Basin (east of the Rinconada fault) have generally and dramatically declined since the late 1990's, groundwater levels in the Atascadero Basin have remained relatively steady, with either consistently high water levels or slight declines due to the recent drought beginning in 2011. The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has recognized the differing characteristics in the Atascadero Basin in their 2010 Resource Capacity Study, 2015 Resource Management System Update, and application to the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission for the formation of a Paso Robles Water District.


## Ongoing Public Outreach and Coordination

Any person may provide information to support or oppose a proposed boundary modification.

## How to Comment

### Submitting Comments to the TCSD

Comments will be received at the public hearing to be held in the TCSD Board Room at 206 5th Street, Templeton, CA, on **March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.** Comments received at the hearing will be summarized and submitted in writing to DWR. Comments may also be submitted in writing to TCSD Board Secretary Laurie Ion at [ion@templetoncsd.org](mailto:ion@templetoncsd.org).



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David LaCero President	Wayne Petersen Vice-President	Judith Dietch Director	Gaiff English Director	Gwen Palfrey Director
---------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------

**STAFF**

Jeff Britz General Manager	Bethina L. Mayne, P.E. District Engineer	Laurie A. Ion Assistant to General Manager/ Board Secretary	Jay Short Utility Manager	Natalie Kluck Finance Officer	Melissa Johnson Recruitment Supervisor	Bill White Fire Chief
-------------------------------	---	---	------------------------------	----------------------------------	---	--------------------------

**TEMPLETON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**  
P.O. BOX 700 • 420 CROCKER STREET • TEMPLETON, CA 93465 • (805) 434-4900 • FAX: (805) 434-4020 • [www.templetoncsd.org](http://www.templetoncsd.org)

### Notice of Public Hearing

#### Atascadero Groundwater Basin


Templeton Community Services District (TCSD) Board of Directors is holding a Public Meeting to explain and receive comments on the proposed modification of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Boundary. TCSD will be considering authorizing the submittal of an application for a scientific basin boundary modification to separate the Atascadero Basin from the Paso Robles Basin.

This proposed modification is in accordance with the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act procedures and requirements.

<b>When:</b>	Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
<b>Where:</b>	Templeton CSD – Board Meeting Room 206 5th Street Templeton, CA 93465
<b>Who:</b>	All individuals, groups, organizations, property owners, and local agencies that are interested in the groundwater basin area as it relates to water management. People may provide comments at the meeting or submit written comments to TCSD Board Secretary Laurie Ion at <a href="mailto:ion@templetoncsd.org">ion@templetoncsd.org</a> by 3 p.m. Wednesday, February 24, 2016 for inclusion in the Board packet.

For further information, including a map of the proposed boundary, please visit:  
<http://www.atascaderobasin.com>

The Templeton CSD Board packet may be reviewed after Friday, February 26, 2016 at [www.templetoncsd.org](http://www.templetoncsd.org). Click on the Agendas and Minutes Section and click on the March 1, 2016 "download" button to review or print materials.



**Atascadero Groundwater Basin**

## Local Agency Input

Each agency with planning or water management responsibilities in the basin will be contacted by TCSD regarding the basin boundary modification.

## Atascadero Groundwater Basin Boundary Modification Public Hearing

Identified **Affected Agencies** include:

- » Atascadero Mutual Water Company
- » City of Atascadero
- » City of Paso Robles
- » County of San Luis Obispo
- » Garden Farms Community Water District
- » Santa Ysabel Ranch Mutual Water Company
- » Templeton Community Services District

**Affected Basins** include:

- » Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

Identified **Affected Water Systems** include:

- » Atascadero Mutual Water Company
- » City of Paso Robles
- » Santa Ysabel Ranch Mutual Water Company
- » Templeton Community Services District
- » Walnut Hills Mutual Water Company

A public hearing to explain and receive input on the proposed basin boundary modification will be held in the TCSD Board Room at 206 5th Street, Templeton, CA, on **March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

If you have questions, see [www.atascaderobasin.com](http://www.atascaderobasin.com) for SGMA basin boundary modification guidance or call John Neil of Atascadero Mutual Water Company at (805) 464-5351 or Jeff Britz of Templeton Community Services District at (805) 434-4900.

## Draft Schedule for Boundary Modifications for the Atascadero Groundwater Basin

Estimated Timeframe	Work Effort
✓ January 31, 2016 (complete)	Staff submitted an Initial Notification of interest in exploring a boundary modification to DWR.
February 22, 2016	Publish draft technical memorandum.
February 12, 2016–March 1, 2016	Public comment period to TCSD Board of Directors regarding the submittal of a basin boundary modification to DWR.
March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.	Public hearing at TCSD Board Room.
March 1–31 2016	TCSD Board of Directors considers approval of resolution formally to submit boundary modification request.
Due by March 31, 2016	Submit basin boundary modification request to DWR.
5 days following submittal of basin boundary modification request	Receive notice from DWR that the application was complete.
30-day period following notice of complete application from DWR	Receive public comments on proposed basin boundary modification.

Several recent studies have confirmed, the Atascadero Basin is hydrogeologically distinct from the Paso Basin.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has distinguished the Atascadero Basin in its Resource Capacity Study<sup>1</sup> and excluded the Atascadero Basin from the urgency ordinance it adopted in August 2013.

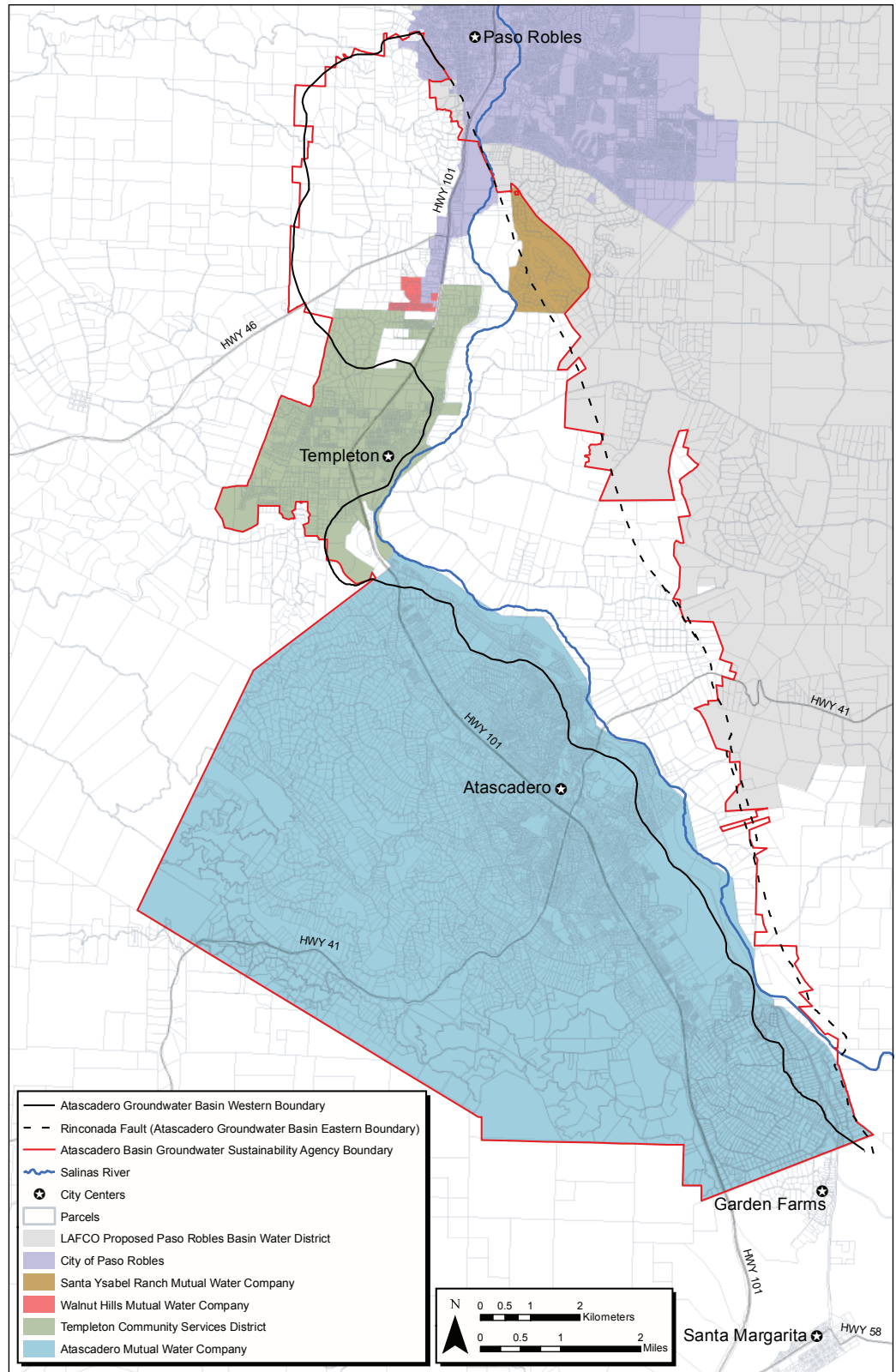
The Atascadero Basin is defined as the area west of the Rinconada Fault. The Fault forms a barrier between the percolating waters of the Atascadero Basin and the Paso Robles Basin by juxtaposing less permeable Monterey Formation rocks with Paso Robles Formation sediments. Water moves across the fault in the shallow, alluvial deposits of the Salinas River.

<sup>1</sup>Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study, 2011:  
<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/PR+Groundwater/rcs.pdf>

For more information, visit our website: [www.atascaderobasin.com](http://www.atascaderobasin.com) or contact John Neil, AMWC (805) 464-5351 [jneil@amwc.us](mailto:jneil@amwc.us) or Jeff Brittz, TCSD (805) 434-4900 [jbrittz@templetoncsd.org](mailto:jbrittz@templetoncsd.org)

updated February 11, 2016

## Proposed Atascadero Basin Boundary and GSA Delineation



### FIGURE NOTES:

Western GSA boundary based on edge of TCSD or AMWC boundary or recent geologic mapping of the groundwater basin.

Eastern GSA boundary based on proposed Paso Robles Water District boundary (LAFCO, 2015).