



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston GSA

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November 14, 2024

Matt Turrentine, Chair, Shandon-San Juan WD/GSA
Berkley Baker, Vice Chair, San Miguel CSD/GSA
John Hamon, Secretary, City of Paso Robles/GSA
Bruce Gibson, Treasurer, County of SLO/GSA
Dana Merrill, Estrella El-Pomar Creston WD/GSA

Willy Cunha, PBCC Staff Member, Shandon-San Juan WD/GSA
Joshua Reynolds, PBCC Staff Member, San Miguel CSD/GSA
Christopher Alakel, PBCC Staff Member, City of Paso Robles/GSA
Blaine Reely, PBCC Staff Member, County of SLO/GSA
Jerry Reaugh, PBCC Staff Member, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston WD/GSA

Dear PBCC Officers and Staff,

The Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District/GSA conducted two public meetings October 28th and November 13th where we encouraged our District enrollees to provide input on the Proposed 5-year Budget for the PBCC. The October Special Meeting of the EPCWD/GSA was designed to allow the district's enrollees to participate in an open discussion concerning the 5-year Budget as proposed and in recognition that the 5-year Budget is the driving force for the Rate Study. The meeting was very well attended with over 30 members participating in person and another dozen on the telephone. The discussion was open and lively with almost everyone speaking. During this week's regular EPCWD/GSA Board meeting, the discussion was continued.

It is clear from the feedback received from and direction provided by our members that the District should communicate the following to the PBCC:

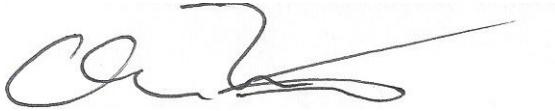
- EPCWD/GSA does not support the proposed PBCC Budget as presented on September 25, 2024.
- EPCWD/GSA does support the section in the PBCC Budget known as "Program Administration"; this is the so-called "Keep the Lights On" portion of the budget. EPCWD/GSA would like to see the Program Administration portion of the PBCC Budget implemented as quickly as possible so that funding is available for fiscal year 25/26.
- EPCWD/GSA would support a scaled-back Management Actions and Project portion of the Budget. EPCWD/GSA would be happy to provide a sample reduced 5-year budget that could service as a starting point for a revised 5-year Budget.

- EPCWD/GSA believes that big projects such as the Blended Water Project, State Water Project and MILR Program should stand on their own merit and be funded separately.

With this in mind, EPCWD/GSA would suggest that the PBCC staff work with the contractor performing the Rate Study to realign the proposed budget so that the Keep the Lights Funding receives the Study's focus and development at this time so that a fee structure that treats all overlayers of the Basin equally can be in place in time for FY 25/26. EPCWD/GSA also recognizes the Management Actions and Project are also important and must be addressed immediately as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Merrill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dana M Merrill
President