

**RESOLUTION NO. 98- 16  
OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES  
PROVIDING COMMENTS AND FINDINGS  
WITH REGARDS TO THE ADEQUACY OF THE  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
ON THE NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT (ED 92-271)**

**WHEREAS, the City Council has an opportunity and obligation to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the Nacimiento Water Project; and**

**WHEREAS, the urban uses of water are a relatively small portion of water consumption in the North County area, the long-term availability of reliable water supplies for residents and businesses of San Luis Obispo County is a paramount concern; and**

**WHEREAS, the Nacimiento Water Project provides a technically feasible means to provide a consistent and reliable future water supply to a number of jurisdictions, including but not limited to the residents of the City of Paso Robles; and**

**WHEREAS, in addition to being technically feasible, other considerations including the environmental, social, aesthetic and economic impacts of the proposed project.**


**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of El Paso de Robles that the Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Nacimiento Water Project has the following shortcomings:**

- 1. The City Council of the City of Paso Robles had previously requested that the Draft EIR for the Nacimiento Water Project include the recreation plan as required by the State Department of Health Services; this plan continues to be absent and needs to be provided, analyzed and considered before the Final EIR.**
- 2. On-going environmental, economic, aesthetic and social impacts need to be addressed by the EIR. These potential impacts include but are not limited to affordable water rates to water users in the jurisdictions served by the Nacimiento Water Project, but also potential adverse impacts on property values at Lake Nacimiento resulting from changes to lake levels and views from properties and facilities at Lake Nacimiento, adverse impacts to tourism revenues as experienced by both business and public agencies, including the City of Paso Robles, resulting from the physical and fiscal results of the water project. These potential adverse impacts need to be comprehensively and adequately identified and evaluated, and sufficient cost-effective mitigation programs should be provided to reduce the level of impacts to less than significant magnitude.**

3. The Draft EIR fails to adequately evaluate project alternatives and alternative routes for conveyance of water from Lake Nacimiento to the jurisdictions who are seeking to utilize this source of water for the long-term water needs of their businesses and residents. Examples of alternatives that warrant identification and evaluation as to technical, environmental and economic feasibility include re-use of existing pipelines that were formerly utilized to transport oil (e.g. from San Ardo to Cayucos) to convey Nacimiento water to locations such as Whale Rock Reservoir that could serve the City of San Luis Obispo (and thereby create an opportunity to work with the City of San Luis on some type of off-setting release of water from the Salinas River Dam). Other alternatives to consider would include diversion of water through natural creek channels to locations that could be utilized either directly or as off-sets with the City of San Luis Obispo.
  
4. The Draft EIR does not adequately identify mitigations of the short-term impacts of construction impediments to vehicular traffic on both Vine Street in the City of Paso Robles and Lake Nacimiento Drive - - the latter being the primary access to the Lake for residents, visitors and tourists alike. While some suggestions have been made by the project engineers, the EIR should more clearly list alternatives to lessen the traffic impacts. As regards Vine Street and other work within the City of Paso Robles, it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be incorporated into the EIR:
  - (a) No open trenches shall be left overnight;
  - (b) Construction contract shall be required to trench, place pipe and fill as work proceeds;
  - (c) No more than a two block area shall be disrupted on a daily basis;
  - (d) All work to be subject to direction of the City's Public Works Department Mitigations such as night work and multiple crew staging of construction should be considered.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 1998, by the following vote:

AYES: Baron, Iversen, Macklin, Swanson, Picanco  
 NOES: None  
 ABSENT: None

  
 Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 Madelyn Paasch, City Clerk