



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

"The Pass of the Oaks"

2005 Urban Water Management Plan Summary of Key Findings

- Paso Robles' water comes from two sources; (1) the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and (2) Salina River underflow.
- Basin:
 - The groundwater basin is shared by many users, including agriculture, which accounts for nearly 70 percent of basin pumping.
 - Significant groundwater storage declines have occurred in a portion of the basin that provides water to the City of Paso Robles (creating a localized groundwater depression).
 - In the last ten years the depth to groundwater has fallen over 100 feet in some areas of the City.
 - The change in groundwater storage from 1997 to 2006 was estimated to have decreased at a rate of 3,300 acre feet per year (AFY) (or a total reduction of storage for the end of the study period of 30,000 acre feet (AF) relative to 1997 levels).
 - As water levels in the basin fall, water quality diminishes. The degradation in quality is characterized by increasing TDS (total dissolved solids), chloride, and nitrate concentrations.
- River:
 - River underflow pumping cannot exceed 4,600 AFY due to limits set by the State of California.
 - There is concern about potential limits on the State-issued permit for river underflow. The State could reduce or deny future pumping.
 - The City is working to secure a license for its current 4,600 AFY allocation.
- Increasing pressure on groundwater will continue to limit the City's ability to provide reliable, high quality water to City residents.
- The City regularly experiences summertime water supply shortages resulting in inadequate volumes for fire and emergency storage, leaving the City precariously vulnerable.
- The City currently has little to no drought buffer.

- The City's demand for water is expected to double from 7,200 AFY to 15,300 AFY over the next twenty-five years.
- The City is developing two new water supplies to offset existing production shortages, improve quality, and provide for the future: (1) Lake Nacimiento water and (2) recycled water.
- Water from Nacimiento Lake is the only water that the City "owns". There exists a strong contractual priority to the reservoir yield.
- Nacimiento water is independent of local groundwater supplies, has historically proven very reliable, will greatly enhance the City's drought reliability and capability to meet peak season demands.
- Nacimiento water will enhance the City's overall water quality and reduce the need for in-home water softening.
- To address immediate needs, 4,000 AFY of Lake Nacimiento water will be delivered beginning July 2010.
- The City is also planning water recycling for irrigation by 2025. Recycled water is very reliable, releases potable water for higher uses, and would ease peak summertime demands.