



Position Statement - Protect Our Water Rights (POWR)

As Paso Robles Groundwater Basin “overlying” property owners we have water rights that are protected under California law.

- An “overlying right” is the right of the landowner (large or small, residential or agriculture) to pump water for use on their land. If you own land, you own water rights to pump for reasonable and beneficial use on your land.
- Full water rights are automatically attached to property.
- A property owner can decrease their water right by willing ceding rights to those who sell water (purveyors).

The Protect Our Water Rights Group (POWR) believes that the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin will be under some form of management.

- Court-Supervised Groundwater Management is the best option for landowners. Under the courts and California law one square foot of land has **exactly** the same overlying water rights as one square mile.
- The competing options include management by a California Water District board, County Government or some combination of both.
- A water district benefits purveyors; a water district is a new tax.

POWR has filed a “Quiet Title” suit

- We must defend our right or we will lose our right.
- Quiet Title asks the court to **CONFIRM** land owner water rights and determine those rights along with everyone else in the basin, including purveyors.
- Purveyors are named in the Quiet Title suit. They have a full right to “disclaim.” Disclaiming would mean that the county and cities declare to the court that they are not claiming any “right, title, or interest” to our water rights.
- If purveyors answer with a “claim” the courts will step in to adjudicate the basin. The court would appoint a “water master” who would carefully manage the basin so that no overdraft occurs. Water allocation is NOT an aspect attached to those who have their rights confirmed.
- Quiet Title secures property rights, therefore water rights which follows your property deed.

Please join our efforts!

Cindy Steinbeck 805.238.1854

www.protectyourwaterrights.com