

Prepared for County Board of Supervisors Meeting  
 Prepared by: Cuyama Valley Conservancy  
 Date: March 17, 2015  
 Re: Water Well Permits and Policy Direction  
 Agenda Item: 04  
 File No: 15-00235

Compare and Contrast - Montecito and Cuyama Valley\* \*School District Bus System

Category	Montecito	Cuyama
Jurisdiction(s)	Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara County San Luis Obispo County Kern County Ventura County Bureau of Land Management Army Corps of Engineers US Dept Fish & Wildlife US Forest Service
Water Source(s)	SWP, Groundwater, Imported Water, Reservoirs, Recycled Water, RO/Treated Water, (Desalinization in Planning Phase)	100% Groundwater
Water Well Yield	Mostly Domestic 5-25 gpm	Some Domestic 5-25 gpm Mostly Industrial 1000-2000 gpm
Community Resources	High concentration of available resources, political access, and influence	Low concentration of resources, economically disadvantaged and underserved
Industrialization	Low - Mostly residential	High - Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas
Potential for Litigation	Low-Moderate	High - ref. SLO & Ventura Counties
Water Management	Water District	Community Service District - New Cuyama Only
Economic	Average household income \$166,000/yr	Average household income \$51,000/yr
New Wells (2013-2015)	100s	12 - Santa Barbara County 2- Ventura County 1- SLO County
Land Use	Residential: Single Family Homes & Large Estates	Intensive industrial agriculture: Increase in planted area in last three years to cover most of the valley (est +/- 5,000 - 10,000 irrigated NEW acreage)
Water-Restrictions	Mandatory restrictions in place	None
Water Basin Knowledge	High; District Studies - simple coastal basin with threat of salt-water intrusion	High; County/USGS Study 2008-2012 - complex geology with 3 sub-basins and little hydrologic connectivity
Well Failures	36	Unknown; anecdotal evidence of dry-wells, sand and salt intrusion
Recharge	None since 2004-2005	None in 2 aquifers - Main Zone & Sierra Madre Foothills Recharge in Ventucopa Uplands
Action	*Allow Montecito Water District to control new wells in district	Advance establishment of GSA for Cuyama Valley, consult with State agencies - namely DWR - to secure funding for GSA, continue monitoring and reporting of study wells, provide advance support for residential water well failures

\*\* Any ordinance adopted by SB County BOS will apply to the entire county and not just one area

SWP - State Water Project  
 GSA- Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
 USGS- United States Geologic Survey  
 DWR- Department of Water Resources