PRAAGS Presentation

California State Board of Food and Agriculture

November 5, 2013
Sacramento, California

Jerry Reaugh

Paso Robles Winegrape Grower
Chairman, PRAAGS

v7

What’s going on in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin?

Water Crisis

Paso Robles AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE for GROUNDWATER SOLUTIONS

CBS THIS MORNING

Politics & Power | HealthWatch | Note to Self | The Green Room | CTM Reads | Saturc

Watch Live | HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testifies before House on Ob

September 10, 2013 9:25 AM

PRINT TEXT

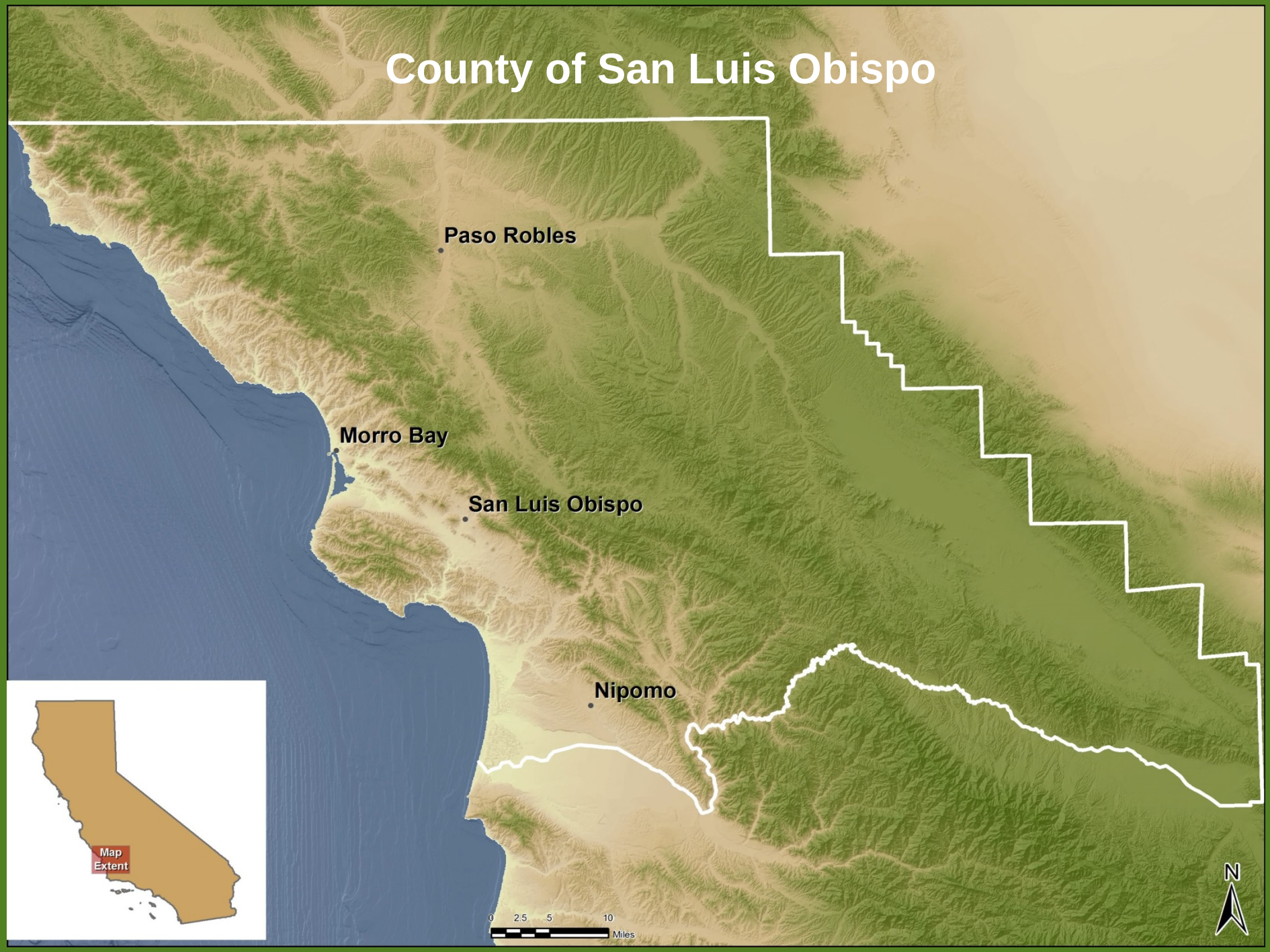
Calif. residents say wineries gulping down area's only water source

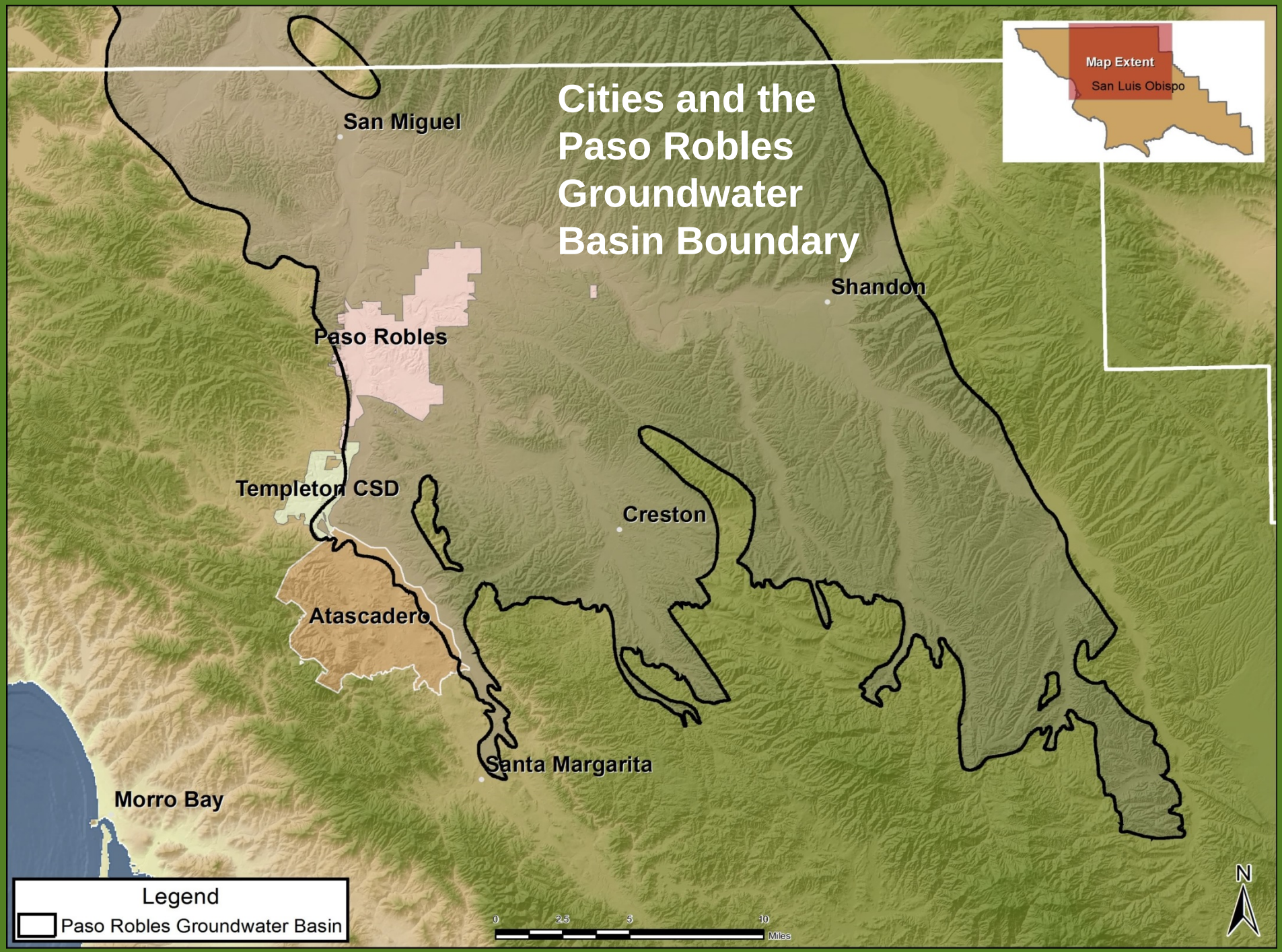
Like 716 | Tweet 20 | +1 3 | Share 8 | More +

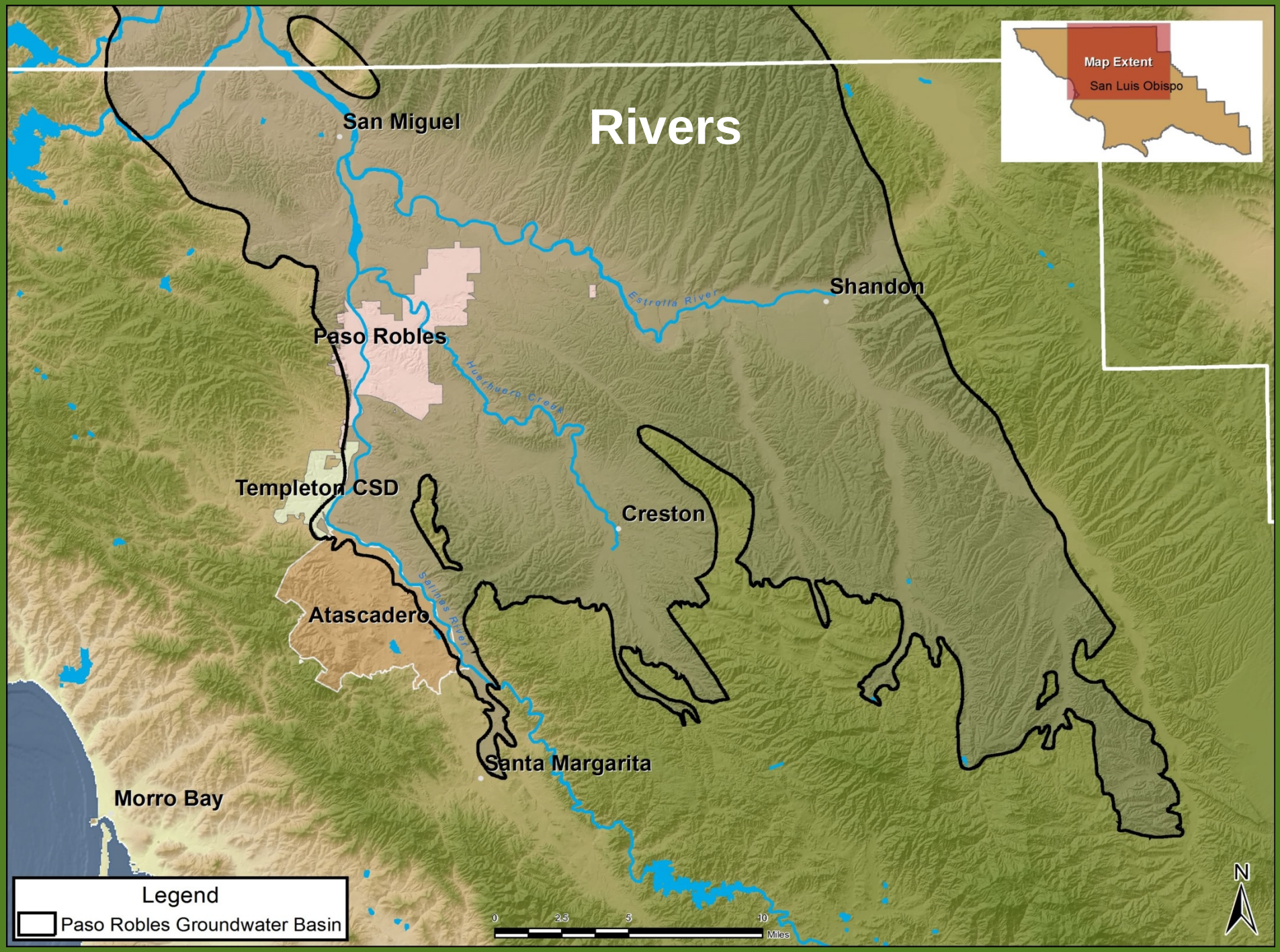
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

an Overview

County of San Luis Obispo




Cities and the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Boundary
Map Extent
San Luis Obispo
San Miguel
Shandon
Paso Robles
Templeton CSD
Creston
Atascadero
Santa Margarita
Morro Bay
Legend
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
0
2.5
5
10
Miles
N


Rivers
Map Extent
San Luis Obispo
San Miguel
Shandon
Estrella River
Paso Robles
Huerhuero Creek
Templeton CSD
Creston
Salinas River
Atascadero
Santa Margarita
Morro Bay
Legend
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
0
2.5
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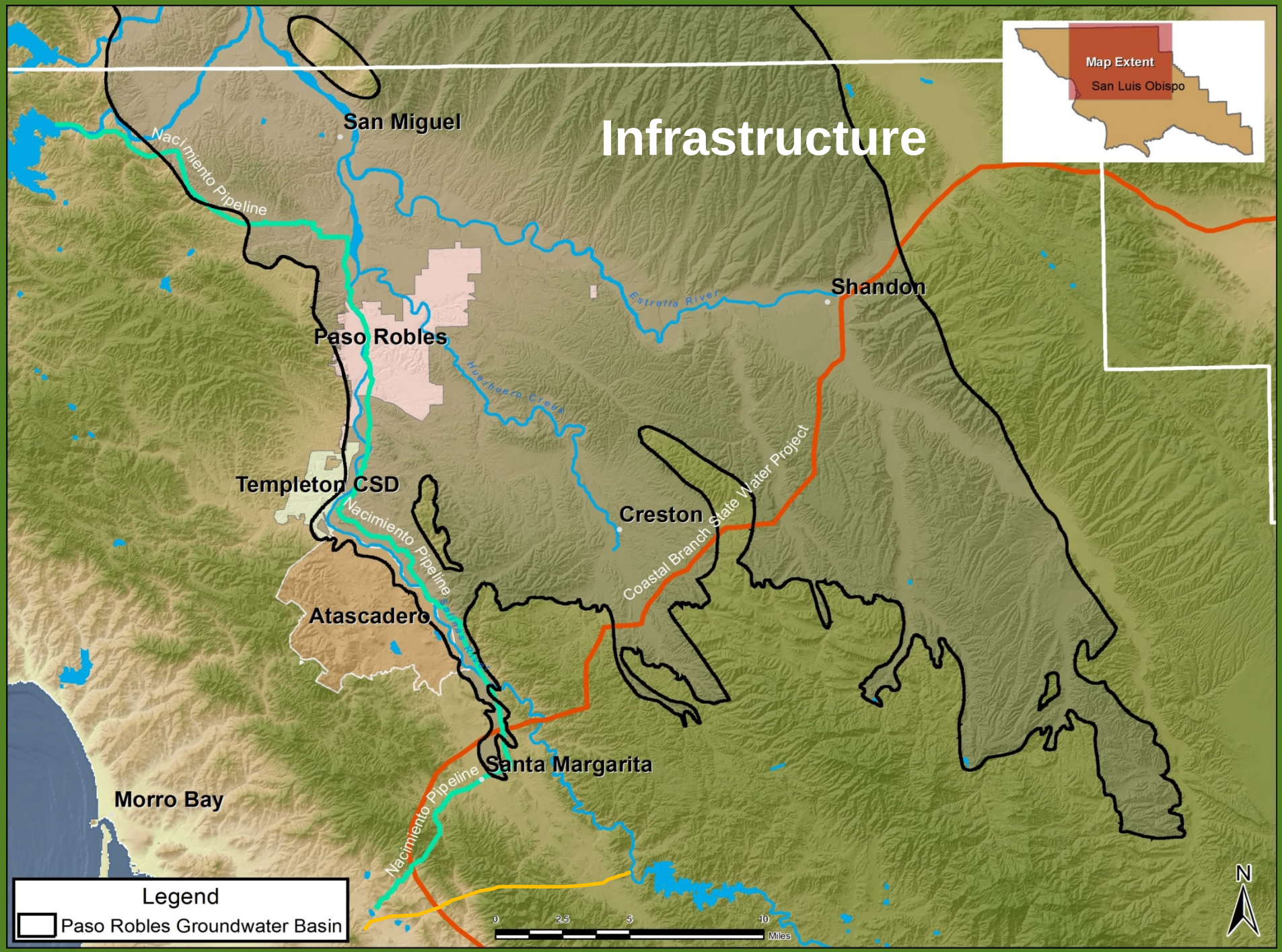
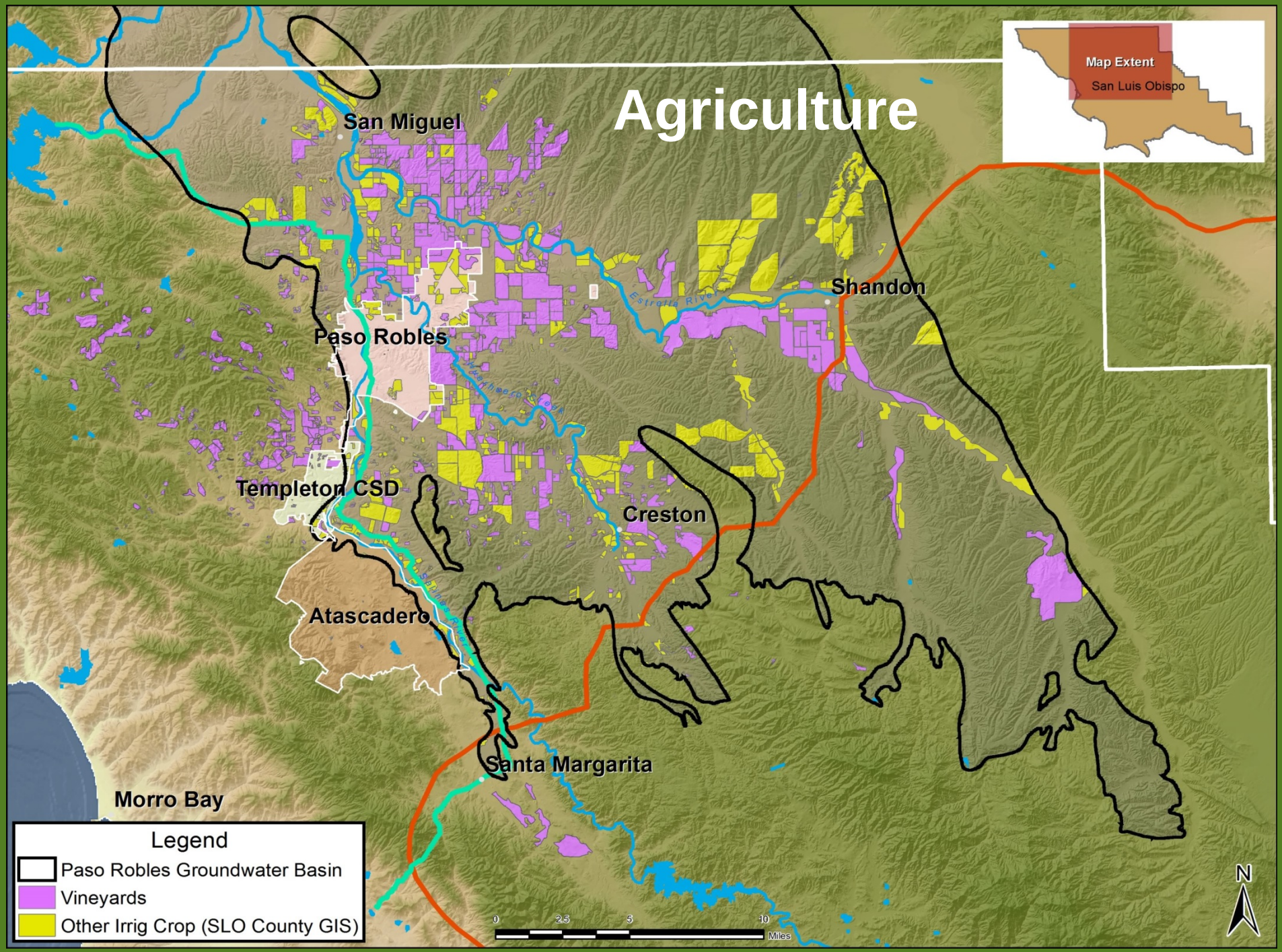
Miles
N

Infrastructure




Agriculture
Map Extent
San Luis Obispo
San Miguel
Paso Robles
Templeton CSD
Atascadero
Creston
Shandon
Santa Margarita
Morro Bay
Estrella River
Salinas River
Legend
Paso Robles Groundwater Basin
Vineyards
Other Irrig Crop (SLO County GIS)
0
2.5
5
10
Miles
N

Ranchers and Farmers Adrift in a Basin Full of Water

- 50, 70, 100 years of nothing
- No Vision
- No Direction
- No Representation
- No Structure
- No Leadership
- No Projects

PRAAGS

Paso Robles Agricultural Alliance for Groundwater Solutions

- Formed April, 2013
- Our Mission form a California Water District
- Member Funded
- Hired Experts
- Filed petition with LAFCO in October 2013

California Water District

Formation process

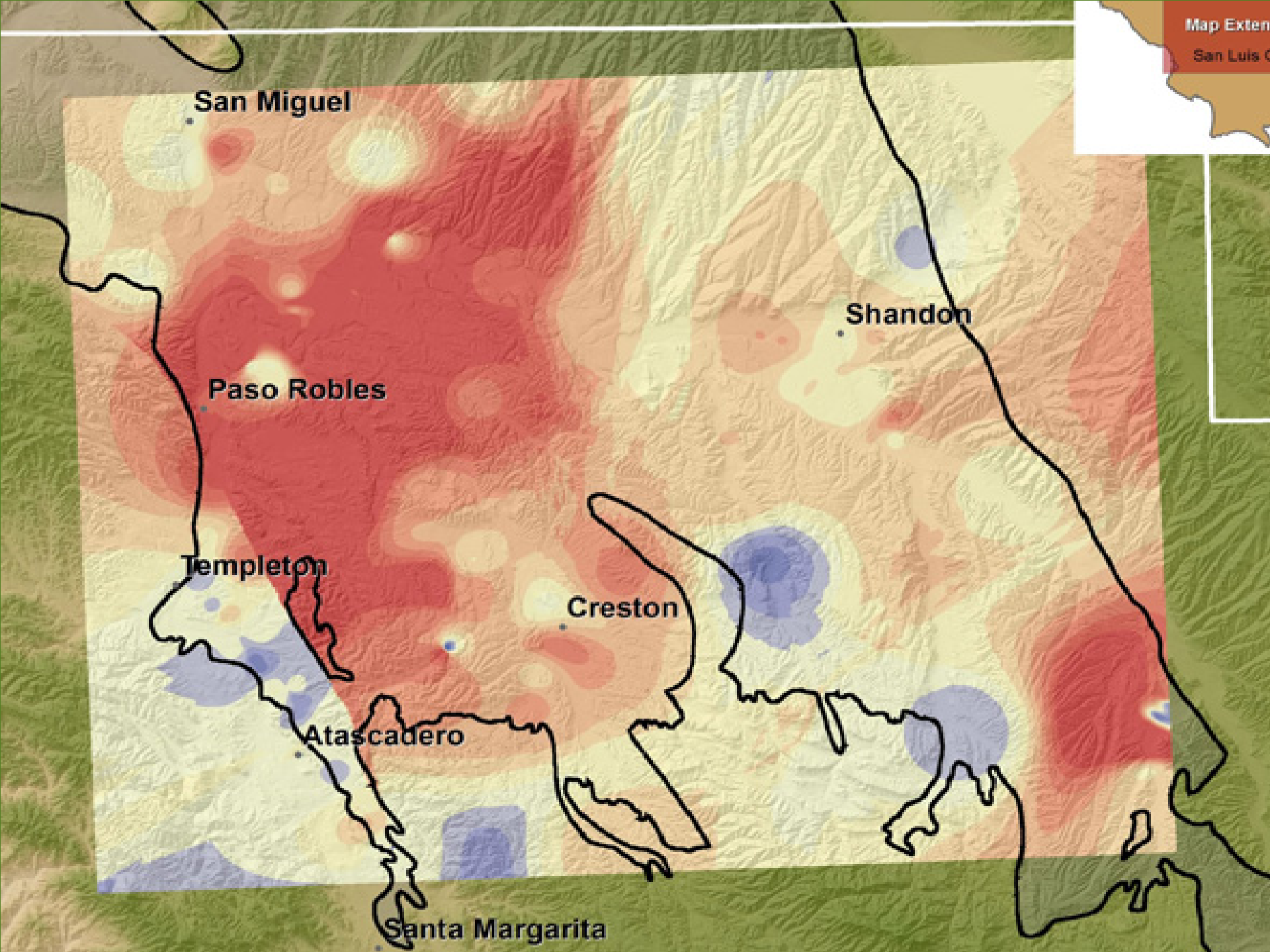
- Define District
- Petition Signed
- Approval by SLO LAFCO
- Vote of Landowners
- Formation of District

The Crisis

(or is it?)

Perfect Storm of Events

- Basin in Decline


Map Exten
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Shandon
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Santa Margarita

Perfect Storm of Events

- Basin in Decline
- Success of the Area

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- Basin in Decline
- Success of Area
- Drought – 4th lowest rainfall in 50 years

Paso Robles AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE for GROUNDWATER SOLUTIONS

THE TRIBUNE

Lack of rain makes 2013 the driest on record, at least so far this year

Published: November 2, 2013 Updated 12 hours ago

By John Lindsey — Special to The Tribune

It's official, the January-to-October 2013 period is now the driest on record at Cal Poly (home of climatology for San Luis Obispo) since 1870 when weather observations started.

The next driest was 1984, when 4.3 inches of precipitation was recorded. So far this year, only a meager 4.0 inches of rain has fallen.

Perfect Storm of Events

- Basin in Decline
- Success of Area
- Drought – 4th lowest rainfall in 50 years
- Warmest Growing Season in the last 17 years

Perfect Storm of Events

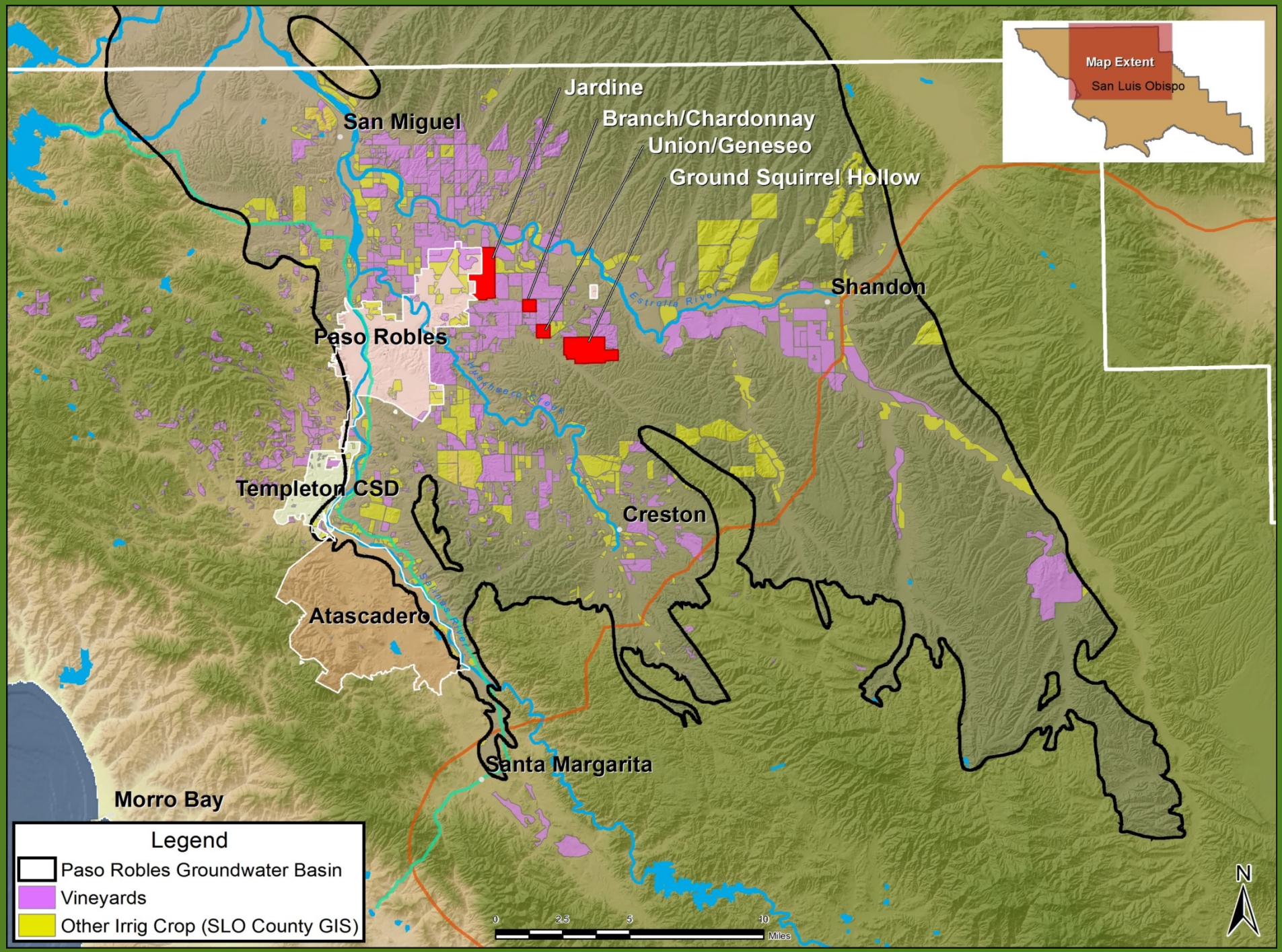
- Basin in Decline
- Success of Area
- Drought – 4th lowest rainfall in 50 years
- Warmest Growing Season in the last 17 years

- Rural residential wells start going dry and this becomes a ‘Cause Celebre’

Activists Seize the Opportunity

- Well orchestrated public and political campaign ensues
- “Chateau Cashflow” and
- Big Corporate Ag are an easy target
- Vineyards became the Villain

Source KQED


Map Extent
San Luis Obispo
Jardine
Branch/Chardonnay
Union/Geneseo
Ground Squirrel Hollow
San Miguel
Shandon
Estrella River
Paso Robles
Huerhuero Creek
Templeton CSD
Creston
Salinas River
Atascadero
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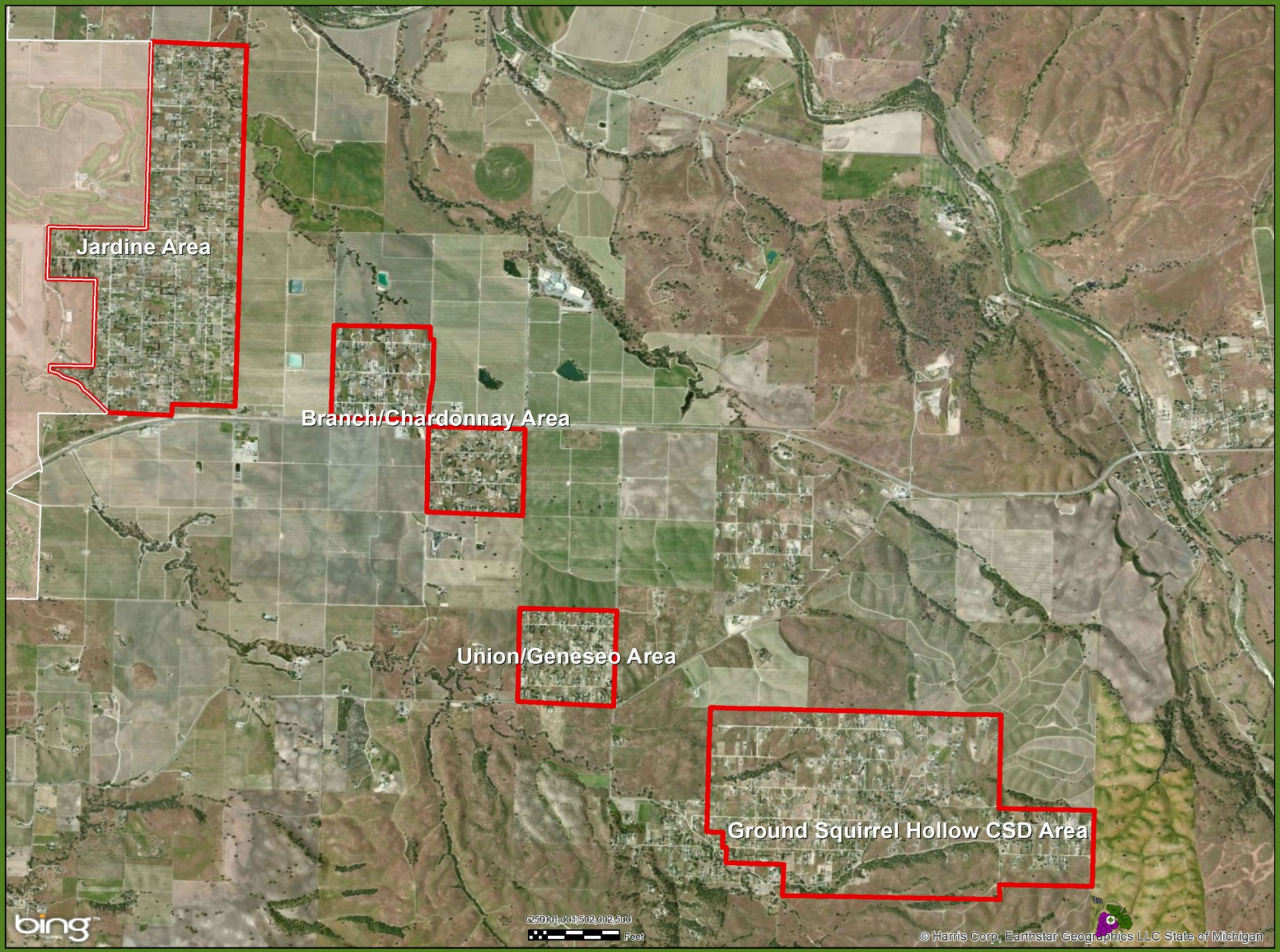
Jardine Area
Branch/Chardonnay Area
Union/Geneseo Area
Ground Squirrel Hollow CSD Area
250 0 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500
Feet
© Harris Corp, Earthstar Geographics LLC State of Michigan

County of San Luis Obispo Addresses the Crisis

- Supervisor Teixeiria passes away, June 26th, 2013
- Balance of power on BoS shifts
- 9 weeks later, Aug. 27th, the BoS passes a 2-year Urgency Ordinance, regulating parts the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

What's in the Urgency Ordinance?

- No new wells, Ag or otherwise
- No new planting with exceptions for 'in process projects' and 'offsets'
- No new developments of any kind that use groundwater
- Biggest single user of groundwater in the North County is completely exempt

County Asserts Control Over Groundwater

- Denying overlyers access to groundwater
- Denying landowners the right to develop their property
- No study or consideration of the effects on the economy
- Possible next steps:
  - Turning Urgency Ordinance in County Code
  - Demand Management – who gets how much?

In Conclusion

- PRAAGS

PRAAGS

- Path to a District now complex
- Highly charged political and public debate will affect the outcome
- Who controls the District is a hot issue
- One man, one vote versus voting by landownership
- PRAAGS is moving forward with the District formation process

In Conclusion

- PRAAGS
- The County and the Basin

Recent County Actions

- County asserting control of groundwater where little authority appears to exist
- Will this become a new precedent?
- Should the State have an interest in this?

In Conclusion

- PRAAGS
- The County and the Basin
- Ag has limited Choices

Limited Choices

- Courts, Litigation, Adjudication
- Water District
  With or without Special Legislation
- Acquiesce to ‘get along’ and give away our water rights
- There has to be another way?

PRAAGS and I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Jerry Reaugh

Chairman PRAAGS

info@praags.org

Please visit our website.

www.praags.org

CBS news clip link:

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505263_162-57602165/calif-residents-say-wineries-gulping-down-areas-only-water-source/