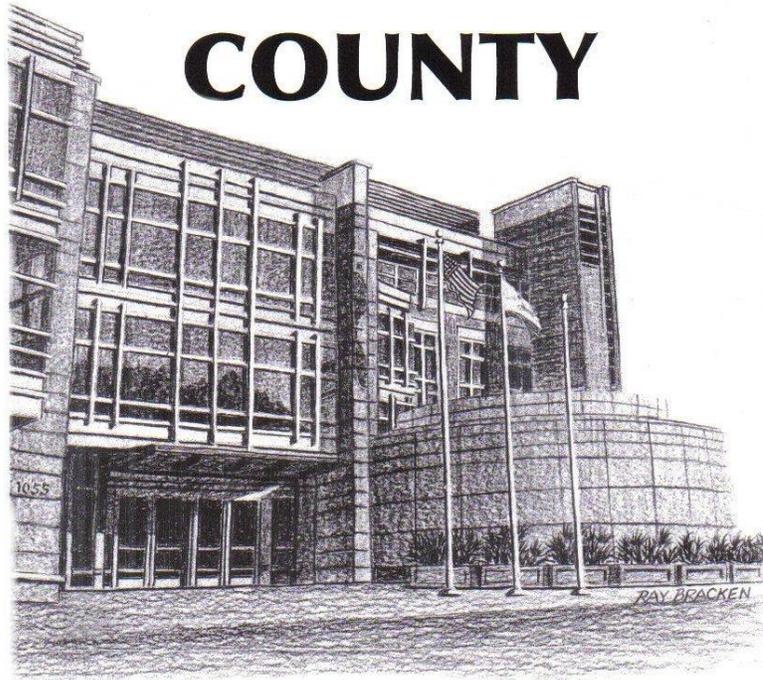


# KNOW YOUR COUNTY



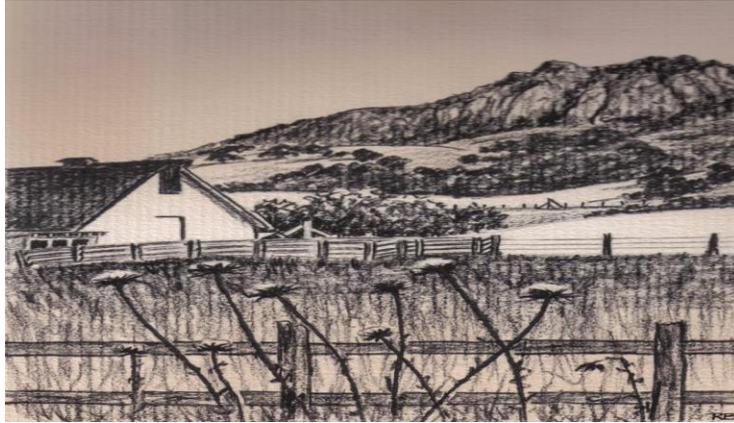
San Luis Obispo County Government Center

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## A Guide to Government San Luis Obispo County

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Compiled and published by the League of Women Voters  
of San Luis Obispo County, California



*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through active and informed participation of citizens in government. Membership is open to persons 16 years of age and older.*

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**A Spanish language edition of Know Your County is available from:**

**Si puede pedir una ediccion de Conozca Su Condado en espanol de:**

**League of Women Voters  
P.O. Box 4210  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403  
Tel. (805) 782-4040**

**For information or additional copies of this booklet, please call the League at (805)782-4040**

**This booklet is on-line at [www.slo.ca.lwvnet.org/KYC.html](http://www.slo.ca.lwvnet.org/KYC.html)**

**Design and Illustrations by Ray Bracken**

**Copyright June 1984, revised 2005, updated 2009 and 2012  
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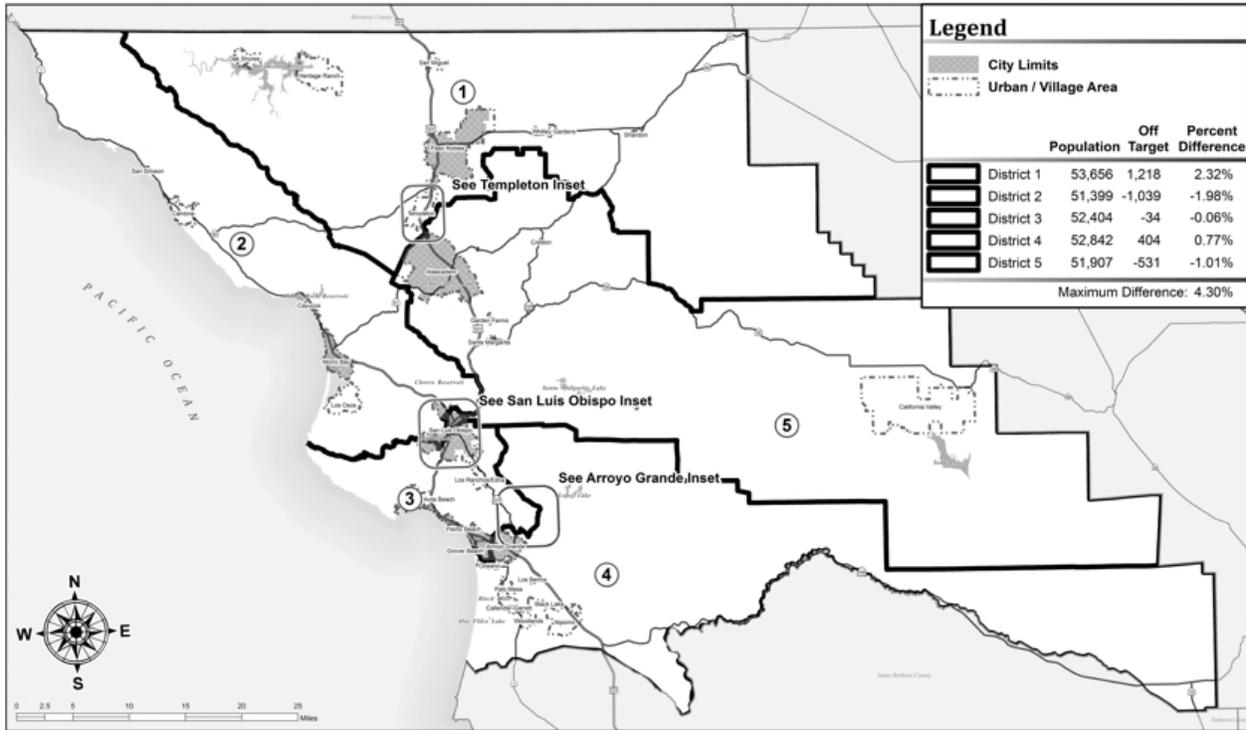
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# District Map



San Luis Obispo County  
Adopted Supervisor District Boundaries

Adopted September 20, 2011

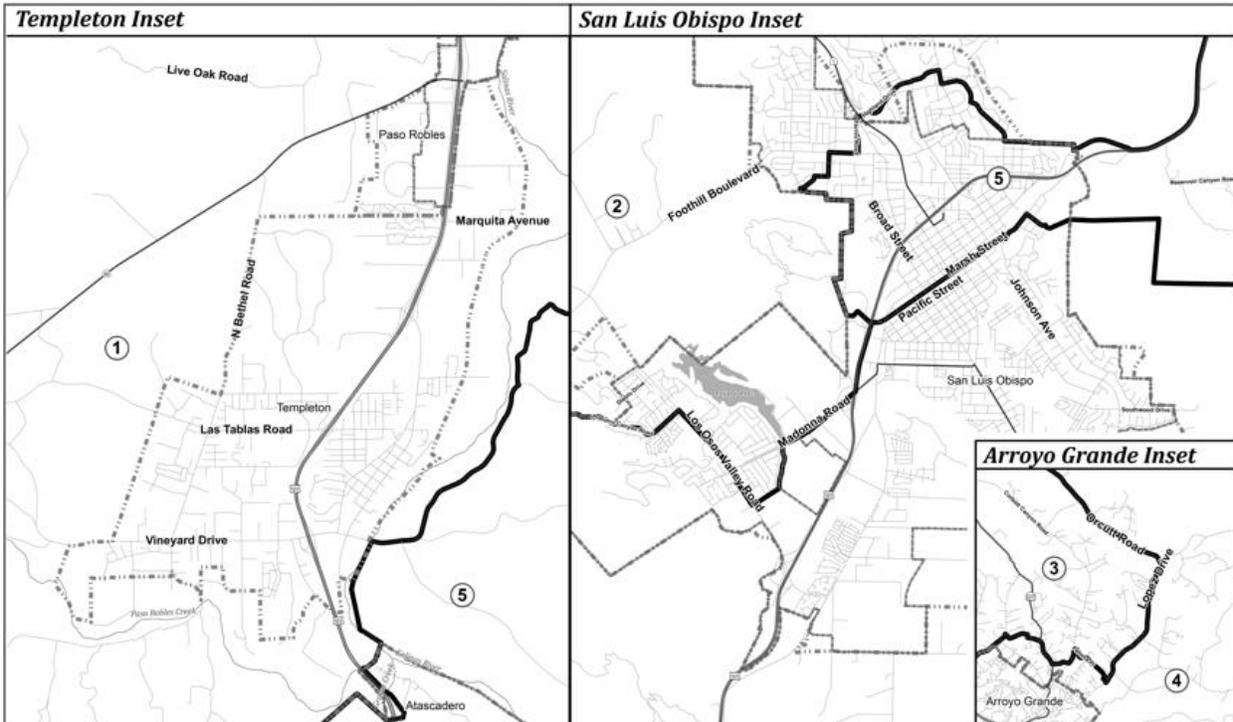


# District Map (details)



San Luis Obispo County  
Adopted Supervisor District Boundaries

Adopted September 20, 2011



# The County Defined

## The Place

San Luis Obispo County, one of California's fifty-eight counties, is located on the Pacific coast, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It covers 3,316 square miles and includes 100 miles of coastline. The center of County government is located in the city of San Luis Obispo. With a population of 281,401 in 2015, the County ranks 23rd in population among California's 58 counties. It is divided into five supervisory districts. San Luis Obispo, with a population of 47,339, is the largest city in the County.

A chain of 22-million-year-old volcanic peaks enhances the natural beauty of San Luis Obispo County. Known locally as the Seven Sisters (there are actually nine peaks), they extend from the city of San Luis Obispo west to Morro Rock and beyond to the Davidson Seamount below the surface of the ocean. In addition to many creeks, there are two rivers of some size: the Santa Maria River, which serves as the southern boundary of the County, and the Salinas River in the inland portion of the County, which flows north eventually reaching the Pacific Ocean at Monterey Bay. The Salinas is a large submerged stream most of the year, but in the winter months it can have a 200-foot-wide flow of water.

Primarily rural in appearance, San Luis Obispo County's economy incorporates state institutions, tourism, agriculture, small retail businesses, the wine industry, tech companies, health services, light manufacturing, and construction. It has cultural organizations, historical interest, great natural beauty, and ecological significance - all attractions for a large and growing number of tourists.

California Polytechnic State University and Cuesta Community College together provide higher education for more than 30,000 students. Cultural venues in the County include the Performing Arts Center (the PAC) at Cal Poly, the Cuesta College Cultural and Performing Arts Center, the Clark Center in Arroyo Grande, the San Luis Obispo Little Theater, American Melodrama in Oceano, and Cambria's Pewter Plough Playhouse. The County is home to the San Luis Obispo County Symphony and the Festival Mozaic, as well as the Civic Ballet, the Vocal Arts Ensemble, and the Cuesta Chorale. The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art and numerous other museums and art galleries also attract tourists.

State and county institutions are the major employers: County Government, California Polytechnic State University, California Men's Colony, Atascadero State Hospital, Cuesta College and the school districts. The largest private employers are: Pacific Gas & Electric, Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Compass Health Inc., Dignity Health – Central Coast, MINDBODY, Community Action Partners (CAPSLO), Community Health Centers of the Central Coast, and Rabobank.

The mild climate and fertile soil of the County produce varietal grapes, broccoli, other fruits and vegetables, nuts, and grains. Ranches in the rolling hills support a large animal industry, and harbors at Morro Bay and Avila accommodate both commercial and sport fishing. The State Park and

National Estuary at Morro Bay are important for their recreational, aesthetic, and ecological value. The County also includes the Carrizo Plain National Monument, home to one of the largest number of listed and endangered species in the state.

## **The People**

During the 1849 Gold Rush, fortune hunters traveled through the County on their way north to the gold fields. Some returned to this area, followed later by settlers who came primarily from the northeastern states. Southerners arrived after the Civil War. World War II brought army camps, and many service personnel returned to settle here after the war.

According to the 2014 Census estimate report, the County's population is 70.1% White (not of Hispanic/Latino origin); 21.5% Hispanic/Latino (of any race); 3.7% Asian; 2.1% African-American; 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native; and 3.3% two or more races. The median age is 39.5 years and the median household income is \$63,474. Over the past 30 years, the population of the County has more than doubled.

## **Travel Connections**

**Railroad:** In 1861 a tri-weekly stage carrying passengers and mail between San Francisco and Los Angeles via San Luis Obispo replaced years of mail-couriers on horseback. By 1873 the Southern Pacific Railroad had extended rail lines from San Francisco to Salinas; stages drawn by horses completed the journey to San Luis Obispo. It was not until October of 1886 that the railroad reached San Miguel, at which time the community became a shipping point. In November of that same year the railroad reached Paso Robles, famed for its hot springs and mud baths, and suddenly it became a real estate boom town. In April of 1887 the railroad reached Templeton. A depot was built and a new farming community began to grow. Not until five years later did the railroad reach San Luis Obispo. Construction required seven tunnels to be built along with many fills, a horseshoe curve, and a long steel trestle. Completion of the line in May 1894 was cause for a grand celebration. The rail line to the shoreline and on to Guadalupe in Santa Barbara County was not completed until 1901. This closed the gap between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and San Luis Obispo was finally on the map.

**Highways:** In 1911 the California Highway Commission was organized with San Luis Obispo as its headquarters. By 1912 the office began functioning and developing Coast Highway 1 from San Luis Obispo to the coast and between San Simeon and Carmel and Highway 101 north through Cuesta Pass and south through the Gaviota Gorge.

**Airports:** Local airport service began in 1950 and gradually developed from serving only prop planes to serving small jets as well as private planes. San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (McChesney Field) makes air travel possible to major airports in California as well as other western states. Small airports in Paso Robles and Oceano also offer service to private planes.

## **History**

Human history in the County dates back at least 9,000 years, with the Salinan Indians inhabiting the area north of the Cuesta Grade and the Chumash Indians living south of the Cuesta Grade and on the coast.

In 1542 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator, sailed up the California coast under the Spanish flag. He noticed “mountains which seem to reach to the heavens” – later called the Santa Lucia, the coastal mountain range along part of the coastline of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. In 1769 Gaspar de Portola led a Spanish army of occupation north from San Diego to Monterey following a coastal route. Coming to what is now Pismo Beach they camped in Price Canyon and later reached a valley with “troops of bears” and named it Los Osos (the bears). Continuing on, they sighted “a great rock in the form of a round morro” - the Spanish term for a crown-shaped rock or hill - what we now know as “Morro Rock”. Moving northward, the army passed through Cayucos, stopping east of Point Estero, and later camping at Santa Rosa Creek north of Cambria. Continuing along Pico Creek near San Simeon Bay, they camped near Ragged Point. With further routes along the coast impassable, the army turned inland and followed a valley northward to Monterey County where the Presidio of Monterey was established. In 1772 near famine at the Presidio caused by the failure of supply ships to reach it brought an expedition to the “Valley of the Bears” or Los Osos. Twenty-five loads of salted grizzly bear meat were carried north to the Presidio to stave off hunger.

As the Spanish colonized California, they established missions along a route now known as El Camino Real or “The King’s Highway”. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was established in 1772, as were ranchos to support it.

In 1821 Mexico revolted against Spain. California land was then owned by the Mexican nation. Vast acreage that had been under mission control was sold to private owners. William G. Dana, a Boston sea captain, purchased the 38,000-acre Rancho Nipomo. Don Joaquin Estrade became owner of Rancho Santa Margarita. In 1848, at the end of the Mexican War with the United States, California became a territory of the United States under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

## **Development of County Government**

Voters approved California's first state constitution on November 13, 1849. One of the first acts of the new state legislature in 1850 was to divide the state into twenty-seven counties, one of which was San Luis Obispo. At the time, the County had a population of fewer than 1,500 people, including about 1,000 Native Americans. Almost all of them lived on the great ranchos that covered half a million acres. The population was mainly Spanish speaking, thus early records are in Spanish. The first election of County officials took place in April 1850. The first courthouse was a room in the Mission San Luis Obispo.

Although the original state constitution approved in 1849 divided the state into twenty-seven counties, the present-day state constitution, adopted thirty years later, allowed for fifty-two counties. Today there are 58 counties in California. A uniform structure of county governments was developed at this time, with all counties governed by general law. When the constitution was amended in 1911, it became possible to have a charter form of government (for greater flexibility of function). However, San Luis Obispo County chose to remain a general law county.

The State Constitution requires that every county elect a governing body (a board of supervisors) and general law counties must elect their supervisors by district. State statutes regulate the structure of general law counties. These statutes not only specify the principal county officers, they also assign their duties. Election by the people is required. Elective offices can be consolidated into combinations, which are defined by law. However, supervisors are prohibited from giving to appointed officials any responsibilities that have already been assigned by law to elected officials.

## County Government

### HOW COUNTY GOVERNMENT WORKS

San Luis Obispo County government provides a wide variety of services. These include law enforcement, health services, public welfare assistance, road construction and maintenance, land use planning, and air pollution control. Fire protection is provided throughout the unincorporated areas by contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Sewer systems, water systems, flood control, and street and road lighting are some of the services administered by the County through its special districts. The County Superintendent of Schools oversees public education. Judicial matters are handled through the Superior Court system. The County administers state-mandated programs and distributes state program monies to the eleven local school districts, the seven incorporated city governments, and to other agencies which provide state-mandated services.

County programs and services are administered by elected and appointed officials, boards, and commissions, and are carried out by their staffs. In addition to the Board of Supervisors, residents elect five department heads including the Assessor, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, and Sheriff-Coroner.

The County Administrative Officer is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for managing the operations of County departments, preparing the County budget, and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of County operations.

The five supervisory districts of San Luis Obispo County encompass the following cities (in bold type) and communities:

- District 1      Adelaida, Cholame, Lake Nacimiento, Oak Shores, **Paso Robles**, San Miguel, Shandon, Templeton, Whitley Gardens
- District 2      Baywood Park, California Men's Colony, Cal Poly (portion), Cambria, Cayucos, Cuesta-by-the-Sea, Cuesta College, Harmony, Los Osos, **Morro Bay**, **San Luis Obispo** (portion), San Simeon
- District 3      Avila Beach, Country Club, Edna-Los Ranchos, Edna Valley (portion), **Grover Beach**, **Pismo Beach**, Rolling Hills Estate, **San Luis Obispo** (portion), Shell Beach, Squire Canyon, Sunset Palisades

District 4     **Arroyo Grande**, Black Lake Canyon, Callendar-Garrett, Cuyama, Edna Valley (portion), Halcyon, Huasna-Lopez, Los Berros, Nipomo, Nipomo-Mesa, Oceano, Palo Mesa

District 5     **Atascadero**, Cal Poly (portion), California Valley, Creston, Garden Farms, Pozo, **San Luis Obispo** (portion), Santa Margarita

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

County officials are elected on a nonpartisan basis in the direct primary election held in June of each even-numbered year. If no candidate receives more than fifty percent of all votes cast for an office, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes compete in a run-off at the November general election that same year. County officials are elected for four-year terms and judges for six-year terms. Elected officials' salaries are set by County ordinance with exceptions noted. Officials must be registered voters and residents of the County.

Most County offices are housed in the **County Government Center Complex** on Monterey, Osos, Palm, and Santa Rosa Streets, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

### **County Board of Supervisors**

Phone: 781-5450                      1-800 834-4636                      Fax: 781-1350

Room D-430; Chambers – Room D-170, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Members:     Five, elected from districts with equal populations.

Term:         Four years, terms staggered.

Duties:       As the County governing body, enacts all County laws; adopts budgets; appoints certain officials; appropriates funds; approves formal contracts; appoints members of boards and commissions; sets policies for government and various special districts; rules on County General Plan and land use issues. Chairman is elected annually by the Board, on a rotating basis.

Meetings:    First four Tuesdays of each month in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, County Government Center, 1055 Monterey St., San Luis Obispo, with the exception of Winter/Summer breaks and the annual CSAC (California State Association of Counties) conference. Sessions are broadcast live on the county government website and cable television (channel 21). TV coverage is replayed periodically throughout the week. Members of the public may address the Board during the public comment period or on agenda items as they come up for discussion. Agendas are available at the meetings and on the Board of Supervisors and Clerk Recorder websites.

### **Auditor – Controller**

Phone: 781-5040                      Fax: 546-1220

Room D-220, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Term: Four years.

Duties: Accounts for all financial transactions; authorizes expenditures by warrants; exercises control over County treasury; audits County departments and special districts. Distributes property taxes to cities, schools, and special districts.

**Assessor**

Phone: 781-5643 Fax: 781-5641

Room D-360, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Term: Four years.

Duties: Implements State Revenue and Taxation Code. Assesses all taxable property except utilities, which are assessed by State Board of Equalization; prepares annual assessment rolls; keeps assessment records; administers property tax exemptions. Appeals of assessed valuation are heard by the Assessment Appeals Board.

**Treasurer - Tax Collector - Public Administrator**

Room D-290, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1149, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406-1149

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Term: Four years.

Duties: **Treasurer:** Phone: 781-5842 Fax: 781-1079

Provides banking and investment services. These services include receiving, verifying, investing, and safekeeping all monies belonging to the County, school districts, and special districts for which the County Treasurer is ex-officio district treasurer. Assists with school, special district, and County issuance of debt.

**Tax Collector:** Phone: 781-5830 Fax: 781-5362

Deposits and accounts for all secured, unsecured, and supplemental property taxes levied by County agencies. Collects business license regulatory fees and transient occupancy tax (bed tax).

**Public Administrator:** Phone: 781-5843 Fax: 781-5362

By appointment of Superior Court, handles a decedent's estate in the event that no one is able or willing to do so.

**County Clerk - Recorder**

Phone: 781-5080 Fax: 781-1111

Room D-120, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

North County: 6565 Capistrano Avenue, Atascadero, CA 93422

North County: Phone: 461-6041 Fax: 461-6043

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Term: Four years.

Duties: **Clerk of the Board of Supervisors:** attends all meetings of the Board of Supervisors and Assessment Appeals Boards; prepares and files minutes, final resolutions, and ordinances resulting from those meetings.

**County Clerk:** issues marriage licenses, files fictitious business name statements, and notary bonds, and processes passport applications. Serves as **Commissioner of Civil Marriages.**

**Recorder:** records and maintains documents affecting real property and vital documents such as birth, death, and marriage certificates.

**Registrar of Voters:** files and maintains voter registrations, files campaign statements and conflict of interest forms. Conducts county, state, and federal elections, including elections for special districts and school districts.

### **District Attorney/Victim Witness**

Phone: 781-5800

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1035 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Term: Four years.

Qualifications: Required to have been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of California. Required to submit a Statement of Economic Interest at time of filing.

Duties: Serves as public prosecutor; presents evidence to the Grand Jury; assists in Juvenile Court; investigates consumer fraud; aids victims of crimes.

### **Sheriff - Coroner**

Phone: 781-4550

1545 Kansas Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

[www.slosheriff.org](http://www.slosheriff.org)

Term: Four years.

Duties: **Sheriff:** serves as law enforcement officer and keeper of the peace in all unincorporated areas in the County.

**Coroner:** directs medical personnel to establish medical facts pertaining to each case to determine circumstances, manner, and cause of violent, sudden, or unusual deaths.

### **Superior Court Judges**

Phone: 781-5143

1035 Palm Street –Room 385, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

[www.slocourts.net](http://www.slocourts.net)

Number: 9 judges.

Term: Six years.

Qualifications: Must have been a practicing attorney for ten years.

Duties: Hears all felonies; handles wills, estates, domestic relations, psychiatric hearings, rights of children and adults, civil cases. Presides over Juvenile Court.

### **County Board of Education**

Phone: 543-7732, ext. 201

Members: Five, one elected from each trustee area.

Term: Four years.

Duties: Approves the County Office of Education budget. Establishes policies for providing special education classes, Juvenile Court and Community Schools, environmental education programs, and a wide variety of specialized services for school districts conducted by County Office of Education staff. Hears expulsion and inter-district transfer appeals.

### **County Superintendent of Schools**

Phone: 543-7732 Fax: 541-1105

3350 Education Drive at Highway 1, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

[www.slocoe.org](http://www.slocoe.org)

Term: Four years.

Duties: Serves as secretary and executive officer of County Board of Education; maintains State standards in local school districts to ensure compliance with State Education Code; processes teacher certifications; provides educational and financial services for school districts. Salary set by the County Board of Education.

## **APPOINTED OFFICERS**

In general law counties, certain offices are required by State legislation. Those that are mandated are the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures, Air Pollution Control Officer, Health Agency Director, Probation Officer, Road Commissioner (County Engineer), and Social Services Director. All the others described below are optional. The Board of Supervisors appoints all except the Probation Officer, who is appointed by the Superior Court, and the Farm and Home Advisor, who is employed by the University of California.

### **Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures**

Phone: 781-5910 Fax: 781-1035 Arroyo Grande: 473-7090 Templeton: 434-5950

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

**Agricultural Commissioner:** conducts a comprehensive pesticide regulatory program and integrates pest prevention and management programs. Inspects agricultural products for quality; advises on land use planning.

**Sealer of Weights and Measures:** protects consumers and businesses by inspecting weighing and measuring devices and verifying business practices to ensure accuracy in the marketplace.

**Central Services Agency Director**

Phone: 781-5200 Fax: 781-1102  
1087 Santa Rosa St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Provides internal support to other County Departments, including purchasing and procurement, building and facilities maintenance, and fleet services. Administers the Capital Improvements Program.

**Child Support Services Director**

Phone: (866) 901-3212 Fax: 781-1293  
1200 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Works to enhance the well-being of children and the self-sufficiency of families by providing professional services to locate parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce orders for financial and medical support. Department's Ombudsman Program works to resolve child support issues.

**County Administrative Officer**

Phone: 781-5011 Fax: 781-5023  
Room D-430, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Assists the Board of Supervisors in managing, directing, and coordinating the operation of all departments over which the Board exercises control. Responsibilities include: Board agenda preparation and review; analysis, interpretation and implementation of Board policies; coordination with Human Resources in labor relations; oversight of projects of countywide significance; and County budget management.

**County Counsel**

Phone: 781-5400 Fax: 781-4221  
Room D-320, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Provides representation and legal advice to all County officers, departments, boards and commissions, and regional agencies. Provides litigation services in complex lawsuits including tax, personnel, and contract and land use matters, to minimize liability and maximize County recovery. Conducts legal research; drafts, reviews, and approves agreements, contracts, and projects; and advises County officers regarding their legal responsibilities under federal and state law.

### **County Emergency Services Manager**

Phone: 781-5011 Fax: 781-5005

Room D-430, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Emergency Services: [www.slocountyoes.com](http://www.slocountyoes.com)

Coordinates emergency and disaster preparedness planning, response, and recovery among local, state, and federal agencies; coordinates emergency preparedness of the public and organizations involved in emergency response.

### **Farm Advisor**

#### **University of California Cooperative Extension**

Phone: 781-5940 Fax: 781-4316 Templeton: 434-4106

2156 Sierra Way, Suite C, San Luis Obispo CA 93401

[www.cesanluisobispo.ucanr.edu](http://www.cesanluisobispo.ucanr.edu)

Cooperative Extension is supported by federal, state, county, and private resources. The San Luis Obispo Office provides programming in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition, and consumer science, as well as youth development through 4-H programs and Master Gardener programs. The County budget provides for local administrative resources such as office facilities, clerical support, transportation, and office supplies.

### **Health Agency Director**

Phone: 781-5500 Fax: 781-5541

2191 Johnson Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Improves and maintains community health by identifying health issues, preventing disease and injury, influencing policy development, and promoting healthy behaviors through leadership, collaborative partnerships, education, direct services, surveillance, case management, and payment for eligible indigent medical care. The Health Agency includes the **Drug and Alcohol Services**, **Mental Health Services**, and **Public Health Services** departments. Together, these departments provide health-related assistance and services to County residents, including the Women, Infant and Children Program, alcohol and substance abuse walk-in clinics, and crisis intervention. As Public Guardian, acts as conservator of those persons decreed incompetent by the court. Health Agency oversees **Animal Services**.

### **Human Resources/Personnel Director**

Phone: 781-5959 Fax: 781-1044

Room D-250, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Administers personnel services; including employee recruitment, testing, classification, employee relations, and training; provides staff support to the Civil Service Commission. Manages insurance and liability, workers' compensation, safety, and employee benefits. Serves as lead labor negotiator for the County.

**Information Technology Director**

Phone: 781-5050 Fax: 781-1222

Room 400, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Provides IT support to County departments serving the public. Provides project management, programming, and computing services, as well as networking, radio communications, budgeting and finance, telephone support services, information security, geographic information, and technical support.

**Library Director**

Phone: 781-5785 Fax: 781-9105

995 Palm Street, (City-County Library) San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

[www.slolibrary.org](http://www.slolibrary.org)

Administers the City-County Library System, which provides books, magazines and newspapers, local history documents, reference works, Spanish-language materials, DVDs, music CDs, books-on-CD, and downloadable audio and e-books for fifteen branch libraries. Services include free internet stations, Wi-Fi and electronic databases, access to foreign language instruction, job and career assistance, test preparation, research and homework assistance, genealogy, news, health and wellness, and auto repair manuals. Evaluates the need for library services throughout the County and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for the establishment of facilities to meet those needs.

**Parks & Recreation Director**

Phone: 781-5930 Fax: 781-1102

1087 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

[www.sloparcs.com](http://www.sloparcs.com) Email: [SLOParks@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:SLOParks@co.slo.ca.us)

The Parks & Recreation Department provides a variety of outdoor recreational programs and activities for the public. See page 32 for information about camping, golf courses, day use facilities, dog parks, recreation programs, park projects and more.

**Planning and Building Director**

Phone: 781-5600 Fax: 781-1242

976 Osos Street, Room 200, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

North County: 6555 Capistrano Avenue, Atascadero, CA 93422

North County: Phone: 461-6138 Fax: 461-6043

Permits, Inspections, Zoning: 788-2076

[www.sloplanning.org](http://www.sloplanning.org)

Prepares long-range plans, site plans, specific plans for selected areas, general community plans, and countywide General Plan elements. Administers and enforces land use and building safety ordinances and supervises energy and environmental review programs. Serves as planning advisor to the Board of Supervisors; consults with the Board and the Planning Commission on planning, building, zoning, and transportation matters.

**Probation Officer**

Phone: 781-5300      Fax: 781-1231      Juvenile Services: 781-5352  
1730 Bishop Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Administers the Probation Department, which is responsible for recommending to the court the disposition of civil, criminal, and juvenile cases in the County penal system and for supervising persons placed on probation. Supports victims' rights and directs the operation of Juvenile Hall and the Juvenile Services Center. Responsible for the collection of restitution for victims and fines and fees from defendants.

**Public Works & Transportation Director: Road Commissioner, County Surveyor, and Flood Control Engineer**

Phone: 781-5252      Fax: 781-1229      email: [pwd@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:pwd@co.slo.ca.us)  
976 Osos Street, Room 206, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Plans and directs engineering and survey services for land development projects. Maintains safe and efficient movement of traffic, oversees maintenance and operations on the County maintained network of roads, and reviews development proposals for survey techniques and documentation. Maintains and performs long-range planning functions for public utility systems for water and wastewater and constructs water storage facilities.

**Social Services Director**

Phone: 781-1600      Fax: 781-1701  
3433 S. Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

Administers public assistance and social service programs financed by county, state, and federal funds that are available to eligible County residents. These include Medical and County Medical Services programs, CalWORKS, foster care, adoptions, food assistance, child welfare services, adult protective services, in-home support services, and general relief services.

**Veterans Service Officer**

Phone: 781-5766      Fax: 781- 5769  
Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.slocounty.ca.gov/veteran](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/veteran)

Assists veterans, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining their monetary and medical entitlements, including information and referral. Funded by a combination of county and state monies.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

The California State Government Code authorizes the Board of Supervisors to appoint as many boards, committees, and commissions as it considers necessary to provide adequate services. They may be set up and dissolved according to need. Some are mandated by State law. Members are compensated for only some expenses.

### **Airport Land Use Commission - 7 members**

Assists local agencies in examining compatible land uses in the vicinity of airports; coordinates planning at state, regional, and local levels to provide for the orderly development of air transportation; prepares airport compatibility plans.

### **Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board – 15 members**

Assists the local agricultural industry in receiving, reviewing, and proposing for presentation to appropriate County agencies the issues and concerns of members of the agricultural industry and of rural communities.

### **Agricultural Preserve Review Committee – 12 members**

Develops policies and assists in the implementation of the Agricultural Preserve Program as provided for in the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, or Williamson Act, to protect agricultural lands for continued production of food and fiber and limited types of land devoted to open space and recreational uses.

### **Assessment Appeals Board - 3 members**

Hears property tax assessment appeals from individual taxpayers. There is no fee for an Assessment Review Request. The tax year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends the following June 30. Appeals for the current tax year are examined when an appeal is received by the Assessor's Office between July 1st and December 31st. An appeal received between December 31st and June 30th will be examined for the next tax year.

### **Behavioral Health Board – 15 - 20 members**

Reviews and evaluates the community's behavioral health needs, services, facilities, and special problems, to ensure services are provided that improve and maintain the health and safety of individuals and families affected by mental health and/or substance abuse issues. In 2012, the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board and the Mental Health Advisory Board were joined to form the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

### **Bicycle Advisory Committee – 10 members**

Promotes bicycle transportation; helps develop County Bikeways Plan; reviews policies and programs in the Circulation Element and the Bikeways Element of the Regional Transportation Plan.

### **Civil Service Commission - 5 members**

Oversees administration of the County's Civil Service system. Members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Prescribes, interprets, and enforces the Civil Service rules. Hears disciplinary and termination appeals. Staff support provided by the Human Resources Department.

**Commission on Children and Families - 9 members**

Also known as “First 5 SLO County”, implements provisions of Proposition 10 to create and adopt a plan for early childhood development consistent with and in furtherance of the purposes of the California Children & Families First Act of 1998.

**Children’s Service Network Council – 14 members**

Provides leadership to all agencies and nonprofits dealing with families and the development of comprehensive community services for children and their families.

**Commission on Status of Women - 15 members**

Advises the Board of Supervisors with regard to issues involving women in the County. Studies and recommends solutions to problems of discrimination in the areas of housing, jobs, community services, employment benefits, education, and veteran’s issues.

**County Commission on Aging - 17 members**

Advises the Board of Supervisors in areas of concern to seniors, to assure the good quality, sufficiency, and coordination of services available to them. It seeks to enhance communication and cooperation among the Board of Supervisors, seniors, service providers, and funding agencies.

**Fish and Game Fines Committee - 10 members**

Recommends to the Board of Supervisors the expenditure of fine monies received and spent locally. These funds are used for educational projects and equipment, and for research to improve or preserve natural habitats.

**Health Commission - 11 members**

Enables citizens and health care providers to participate in public health care decisions. Advises the Board of Supervisors on all major health care policies and health care legislation. Promotes strategic health planning and development of resources within the County.

**Parks and Recreation Commission - 5 members**

Advises Parks & Recreation Staff and the Board of Supervisors on policy, planning, park development issues, budget considerations, and community relations. Reviews and recommends user fees and charges.

**Planning Commission - 5 members**

Hears all development proposals, including subdivisions not adjudicated at the administrative level (Planning Department). Hears appeals for proposals denied at the administrative level and for proposals to change the Land Use Element and/or Land Use Ordinance and recommends final action to the Board of Supervisors; reviews and acts on all Environmental Impact Reports. Decisions may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

**Transportation Advisory Committees**

**Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee – 15 members**

**Social Services Transportation Advisory Committee – 12 members**

Both committees provide public input to the SLO Council of Governments on regional transportation needs and services and the Regional Transportation Plan.

**Water Resources Advisory Committee -- 34 members**

Advises the Board of Supervisors on all policy decisions relating to water resources of the SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Determines needs and financial capabilities of water districts. Recommends specific water resource programs and methods of financing them.

**Workforce Development Board – 25 members**

An economic advisory, planning, and policy board created under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. Appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, the WDB leverages community resources for workforce development. Oversees an America’s Job Center of California (AJCC) program, which provides no-cost employment and training services for employers and job seekers.

# Planning

**General Plan:** State law requires that all counties and cities have a General Plan that addresses specific elements and is implemented with respect to local conditions and circumstances. The General Plan is a statement of development policies. It includes maps, diagrams, and text setting forth objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals regarding the following State-mandated elements. Each element is to be internally consistent with the others:

- |                |                 |               |           |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Land Use    | 3. Housing      | 5. Open Space | 7. Safety |
| 2. Circulation | 4. Conservation | 6. Noise      |           |

San Luis Obispo County has opted to combine the Land Use and Circulation Elements and the Conservation and Open Space Elements. Counties and cities may elect to add other optional General Plan Elements that recognize local conditions considered important to long-range planning goals. Our County has adopted Parks and Recreation, Historic and Esthetic, Energy, Offshore Energy, Economic Water and Sewer, and Agricultural elements in addition to the required elements.

Because San Luis Obispo is a coastal county, it has a two-part Land Use Element: one part covering inland areas and the other the coastal areas.

**Land Use Element:** The LUE is the most important element of the General Plan. It designates the general distribution and intensity of uses of land for housing, commercial, industry, open space, education, public facilities, and other categories of public and private uses. Land is divided into “land use zones” which dictate how land may be used. Zones may include agriculture, open space, residential, commercial, or industrial, and may have several gradations, such as residential single family, residential multi-family, and low, medium, or high density. Where there is a dangerous or unusual condition, such as a flood plain, scenic highway, or airport hazard, the County (or city) will require additional consideration for development.

**Coastal Zone Land Use Element:** The coastal areas of San Luis Obispo County are subject to further standards established by the California Coastal Protection Act. Each coastal county must

have a **Local Coastal Plan (LCP)**. Development in the Coastal Zone must deal with issues such as public shoreline access, visitor-serving facilities, coastal dependent industry, and low and moderate income housing needs. The LCP gives highest priority to preserving and protecting natural resources, including environmentally sensitive habitats and prime agricultural lands.

The **Land Use Ordinance (LUO)** is the principal way of implementing the General Plan. It sets specific requirements for land use design and development. San Luis Obispo County has both a Land Use Ordinance and a Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance, corresponding to the inland and coastal Land Use Elements. The LUO sets standards, such as minimum parcel size, width and depth dimensions, and building setbacks or heights. It is the legal authorization for implementing and enforcing policies of the LUE.

Changes and appeals to the inland LUE and LUO are settled by the County Board of Supervisors, but proposals to change the Local Coastal Plan must first be approved by the State Coastal Commission.

For more information on the General Plan, planning elements and areas, and permit procedures for developing land, see the Planning and Building Department web site at [www.sloplanning.org](http://www.sloplanning.org).

## Finances

In Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016, the County adopted a budget totaling \$572.6 million and employed nearly 2,640 people. For more information and the current year's fiscal budget, go to the County's website at [www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us).

### **Financing Sources:**

**State and Federal Aid:** The largest percentage of revenue to the County (42%) comes from the state and federal governments. This revenue is mainly in the form of flow-through funds that pay for mandated programs. These funds include highway user taxes, health and welfare funding, and public safety funding.

**Taxes:** The second largest source of revenue (30%) is taxes, with property tax the largest single tax category. The property tax is limited to 1% of assessed value, plus amounts for voter approved debt. The County Assessor is responsible for appraising all taxable property in the County except for public utilities, which are valued by the State Board of Equalization. Other significant tax receipts come from sales taxes, property transfer taxes, and transient occupancy taxes.

**Other Revenues:** The rest of the County's financial support comes from fees and charges for services (5%), licenses and permits (2%), fund balance reserves (9%), and other sources such as fines and forfeitures, interest, and rents.

### **Expenditures by Functional Area:**

Health and Human Services (35%) and Public Protection (25%) are the largest expenditure

categories, followed by Land Based expenditures (11%), Reserves and Contingencies (8%), and

Support to County Departments (5%). Financing (7%), Fiscal and Administrative costs (4%), other Community Services (3%), and Capital Projects (2%) account for the rest of expenditures.

**Budget Calendar:** The Fiscal Year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

August	Departments submit Capital Improvement Project Requests.
October	Financial Forecast is presented to the Board.
November	Board adopts budget goals, priorities, and fee schedule for coming year.
December	Departments develop goals and performance measures.
January	Departments submit budget requests.
February	Administrative Office presents a budget update to the Board.
March	Administrative Office reviews and analyzes budgets submitted by departments.
April	Administrative Office finalizes budget recommendations.
May	Proposed budget is published. Supplemental budget is prepared.
June	Public budget hearings held to review and adopt proposed budget.
July	New Fiscal Year begins July 1.
August	Fund Balance Available from Fiscal Year just ended is identified.
September	Final budget is adopted by the Board, including Fund Balance Available.
November	Final budget is published.

## Regional Agencies

### **San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)**

Phone: 781-4219      Fax: 781-5703  
1114 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.slocog.org](http://www.slocog.org)

**Board Members:** Twelve. All five Supervisors and the mayor or one council member from each of the seven cities.

**Duties:** Serves as the region-wide planning and programming agency for issues of regional concern. Is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), and the Census Data Affiliate (CDA) for the San Luis Obispo region. SLOCOG coordinates area agencies in multi-jurisdictional matters and administers federal and state funds designated for transportation, congestion management, and other areas of Board responsibility. Prepares the Regional Housing Needs Allocation and the Sustainable Communities Strategy as part of the Regional Transportation Plan.

**San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority (SLORTA)**

Phone: 781-4833      Dispatch: 541-2228  
179 Cross Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.slorta.org](http://www.slorta.org)

**Board Members:**      Twelve. All five Supervisors and the mayor or one council member from each of the seven cities.

**Duties:**      Provides fixed route service (RTA) and ADA paratransit service (Runabout) throughout San Luis Obispo County, plus round trips to Santa Maria. Also administers the transit system for the Five Cities area (RTA-SCAT) and all San Luis Obispo County transit services including Dial-a-Ride services in Paso Robles, Shandon, Templeton and Nipomo, the Paso Robles Express, and the Avila Beach Trolley. SLORTA supervises regional rideshare programs and outreach activities offering alternative modes of transportation. Funded by state and federal grants, other public agency contributions, and state and federal gas tax monies.

**Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA)**

Phone: 782-8530      Fax: 782-8529  
870 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Recycling & household hazardous waste drop-off information: 1-800-400-0811.  
[www.iwma.com](http://www.iwma.com)

**Board Members:**      Thirteen. All five Supervisors and the mayor or one council member from each of the seven cities and one representative from all authorized special districts in the County.

**Duties:**      Combines the powers of the member agencies to achieve the State-mandated waste diversion goals, satisfy the requirements of the Integrated Waste Management Act, and develop waste management facilities for the benefit of the County and all its cities and special districts. Offers a countywide school education program for teachers in grades K – 12.

**Air Pollution Control District (APCD Board)**

Phone: 781-5912      Fax: 781-1002  
3433 Roberto Court, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.slcleanair.org](http://www.slcleanair.org)

**Board Members:**      Twelve. All five County Supervisors and the mayor or one council member from each of the seven incorporated cities.

**Duties:**      One of 35 air districts in the state. It involves all members of the community to preserve air quality at the local level. Updates the Clean Air Plan; proposes emission control strategies; reviews new development plans for air quality impacts and issues permits; administers grant programs for emission reduction projects; monitors air quality at stations throughout the County.

**Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (WQCB)**

Phone: 549-3147 Fax: 543-0397

895 Aerovista Place, #101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5427

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast)

**Region:** WQCB is a State agency divided into nine regions, each with its own semi-autonomous board. The Central Coast Region includes all basins, including Carrizo Plain, that drain into the Pacific Ocean from south Santa Clara County along the coast south to northern Ventura County.

**Board Members:** Nine. Appointed by the governor to serve four-year staggered terms. Must reside or maintain a place of business within the Region and have special knowledge of specific activities related to the control of water quality in the Region.

**Duties:** Regulates all waste discharges that could affect the waters of the state, including permit adoption, surveillance, monitoring, inspections, and enforcement orders; performs planning functions such as adoption and maintenance of a Water Quality Control Plan for the Region; partially regulates toxic and hazardous waste disposal, underground tank and other spill cleanups.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)**

Phone: 781-5795 Fax: 788-2072

1042 Pacific Street #A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

[www.slolafco.com](http://www.slolafco.com)

The State requires a Local Agency Formation Commission in each county. LAFCO is legally independent of local government jurisdictions.

**Board Members:** Seven. Two Supervisors, two council members from different cities, two representatives from different special districts, and a member from the public at large.

**Duties:** Considers proposals for the formation of new local governmental agencies. Discourages urban sprawl and encourages the orderly formation and development of local agencies based on local conditions and circumstances; determines the sphere of influence for each city and special district within the County; reviews and acts upon requests to form, dissolve, or reorganize any local governmental agency; coordinates logical and timely local governmental boundary changes; determines that services are provided efficiently and economically while agricultural and open-space lands are protected; initiates reorganization or consolidation of special districts when appropriate.

# Special Districts

Most special districts are units of local government established by the residents of an unincorporated area in order to obtain services not provided by the County. Some special districts are authorized to perform a single function (fire protection, lighting) and others provide numerous services (similar to those of a city), such as the Community Services District (CSD's). Some districts are financed by user fees, set to cover the costs of service, while general revenues, primarily property taxes, support other districts.

The Community Services Districts are independent special districts governed by a board of directors elected from within the district boundaries. They are:

- Avila Beach Community Services District
- California Valley Community Services District
- Cambria Community Services District
- Creston Hills Ranch Community Services District
- Ground Squirrel Hollow Community Services District
- Heritage Ranch Community Services District
- Independence Ranch Community Services District
- Linne Community Services District
- Los Osos Community Services District
- Nipomo Community Services District
- Oceano Community Services District
- San Miguel Community Services District
- San Simeon Community Services District
- Squire Canyon Community Services District
- Templeton Community Services District

Dependent special districts are governed by the Board of Supervisors. Independent special districts have elected boards. The largest special districts established for a specific purpose are:

## **Flood Control & Water Conservation Districts – Dependent**

Phone: 781-5252      Fax: 781-1229

[www.slocountywater.org](http://www.slocountywater.org)

Mandated by State legislation. As flood control needs are recognized, zones are established to develop and fund mitigation projects such as stream-bed clearing and levee maintenance. This district also coordinates the State water pipeline project through the County and delivers water to local water distributors who have contracted for state water. The flood control and water conservation districts are a division of the County Department of Public Works.

**Port San Luis Harbor District – Independent**

Phone: 595-5400 Fax: 595-5404  
3950 Avila Beach Drive/P.O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA 93424  
[www.portsanluis.com](http://www.portsanluis.com)

Established by the voters in 1954, the district boundaries extend from the Cuesta Grade to the Santa Maria River and encompass most of the City of San Luis Obispo, Avila Beach, and the southern part of the County. Governed by five elected commissioners, the Harbor District maintains all facilities and services needed by commercial and recreational users of Port San Luis Harbor as well as recreational facilities in Avila Beach, subject to the Local Coastal Plan.

**Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District – Dependent**

Phone: 772-4391  
1203 Main Street, Suite B, Morro Bay, CA 93442  
[www.coastalrcd.org](http://www.coastalrcd.org)

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) offers a variety of programs to assist farmers, ranchers, landowners and other watershed users in improving and protecting soil and water resources. CSLRCD partners with the Natural Resource Conservation Service for technical assistance, funding, and permit coordination. Board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District – Dependent**

Phone: 434-0396, ext. 5  
65 South Main Street, Suite 107  
Templeton, CA 93465  
[www.ltrcd.org](http://www.ltrcd.org)

The Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District provides services and education to landowners supporting their management and stewardship of soil, water and natural resources. LTRCD provides technical assistance and resources to help agricultural, rural and urban communities in greater San Luis Obispo County and parts of Kern and Monterey Counties. Board members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Other special districts authorized to perform specific functions are:

- Cambria Community Healthcare District
- Cayucos Sanitary District
- Cayucos Fire Protection District
- Garden Farms Water District
- Santa Margarita Fire Protection District

## **CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCILS**

In 1996 the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution creating Community Advisory Councils. Members of these councils are elected by residents of unincorporated communities and the surrounding areas. These councils allow local residents to provide input to the Planning Department, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on land use issues and development projects that occur in their communities and that may affect them. They provide an important opportunity for residents of the unincorporated County to gain access to County government officials and participate in local government. The councils are as follows:

Avila Valley Advisory Council

[www.avac-avila.org](http://www.avac-avila.org)

Cayucos Citizens Advisory Council

[www.cayucos-ccrac.org](http://www.cayucos-ccrac.org)

Creston Advisory Body

[www.crestonadvisorybody.net](http://www.crestonadvisorybody.net)

Los Osos Community Advisory Council

[www.locrac.info](http://www.locrac.info)

North Coast Advisory Council

[www.northcoastadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.northcoastadvisorycouncil.org)

Oceano Advisory Council

[www.oceanoadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.oceanoadvisorycouncil.org)

San Miguel Advisory Council

[secretary@sanmigueladvisorycouncil.com](mailto:secretary@sanmigueladvisorycouncil.com)

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

[www.smaaonline.org](http://www.smaaonline.org)

Shandon Advisory Committee

[shandoncouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:shandoncouncil@yahoo.com)

South County Advisory Council

[www.scac.ca.gov](http://www.scac.ca.gov)

Templeton Area Advisory Group

[www.taaginfo.org](http://www.taaginfo.org)

# Education

## **Public School Districts**

Almond Acres Charter Academy

1601 L Street, San Miguel, CA 93451 (805) 467-2095

Atascadero Unified School District

5601 West Mall, Atascadero, CA 93422 (805) 462-4200

Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School

1401 San Luis Bay Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 (805) 595-7169

Cayucos Elementary School District

301 Cayucos Drive, Cayucos, CA 93430 (805) 995-3694

Coast Unified School District

1350 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428 (805) 927-3880

Lucia Mar Unified School District

602 Orchard Street, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 (805) 474-3000

Paso Robles Unified School District

800 Niblick Road, P.O. Box 7010, Paso Robles, CA 93447 (805) 769-1000

Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary School District

2025 Ranchita Canyon Road, San Miguel, CA 93451 (805) 467-3453

San Luis Coastal Unified School District

1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 549-1200

San Miguel Joint Union School District

1601 L Street, San Miguel, CA 93451 (805) 467-3216

Shandon Joint Unified School District

101 South First Street, P.O. Box 79, Shandon, CA 93461 (805) 238-0286

Templeton Unified School District

960 Old County Road, Templeton, CA 93465 (805) 434-5800

## **Grizzly Youth Academy**

721 Mendocino Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Phone: 1-800 926-0643

[www.grizzlyyouthacademy.org](http://www.grizzlyyouthacademy.org)

Grizzly Youth Academy (GYA) is a partnership between the California National Guard and the Grizzly Challenge Charter School. For youth between the ages of 16 and 18 who have dropped out of high school, or are at-risk of dropping out, GYA offers a structured environment that promotes leadership, cooperation, and academic skills, while building self-esteem and confidence.

## **Higher Education**

### **Cuesta College**

P.O. Box 8106, San Luis Obispo CA 93403

Phone: (805) 546-3100

[www.cuesta.edu](http://www.cuesta.edu)

North County Campus: 2800 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Phone: (805) 591-6200      Fax: (805) 591-6311

South County Center: Arroyo Grande High School, Room 913, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Phone: (805) 474-3913      Fax: (805) 474-3915

Cuesta College, the County's only community college, offers Associate of Arts and Associate of Science programs in fields including business administration, computer information systems, early childhood education, emergency medical services, library and information science, medical assisting, and nursing. Nursing programs include nursing assistant, licensed vocational nursing, and registered nursing programs. Continuing education is offered free of charge in a variety of subjects for all residents over 18 years of age. The main campus is located approximately halfway between the cities of San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay on Highway 1. The College is administered by a board of five trustees elected at large for staggered four-year terms.

### **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo**

Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo. CA 93407

Phone: (805) 756-1111

[www.calpoly.edu](http://www.calpoly.edu)

A campus of the California State University system, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo is located adjacent to the City of San Luis Obispo. Cal Poly offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in five colleges: College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences; College of Architecture and Environmental Design; College of Engineering; College of Liberal Arts; Orfalea College of Business; College of Science and Mathematics. Cal Poly Extended Education and Open University programs offer on-site and online classes for community members not enrolled at Cal Poly.

Cal Poly Arts presents arts and entertainment programs at the Performing Arts Center located on the campus of the university. [www.calpolyarts.org](http://www.calpolyarts.org).

# Public Services

## **Airport**

San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (McChesney Field)  
901 Airport Drive  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Phone: 781-5205.

Located just south of the City of San Luis Obispo, the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport serves areas as far north as Southern Monterey County and as far south as Northern Santa Barbara County. The airport offers convenient access to and from the Central Coast. Residents and visitors have the choice of two commercial airlines with flights to Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Francisco. The airport is also home to full service general aviation and corporate facilities.

## **Animal Services**

County Operations Center  
885 Oklahoma Avenue (off of Hwy 1)  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
Phone: (805) 781-4400  
Shelter Update: (805) 781-4407  
Volunteers: (805) 781-4413

Receives abandoned, homeless, and stray animals at the shelter, performs rabies control and monitoring, enforces local and state animal regulations, and assists in offering solutions to animal-related problems. Revenues received come from licensing fees and from service contracts with incorporated cities.

## **CAL FIRE/County Fire Department**

635 North Santa Rosa Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405  
[www.calfireslo.org](http://www.calfireslo.org)

*CAL FIRE*, a California state agency, functions as the County Fire Department under a contract with the County of San Luis Obispo, and has done so since 1930. The County Fire Department responds to emergencies and other requests for assistance, plans for and takes action to prevent emergencies and to reduce their impact, coordinates regional emergency response efforts, and educates the communities served. County Fire provides contract fire services to the communities of Los Osos and Avila Beach and *CAL FIRE* also provides local contract fire services to the City of Pismo Beach and, during non-fire season, to the community of Cayucos.

## **Drug and Alcohol Services**

Provides services and programs to help people with drug and alcohol problems, including public walk-in clinics, prevention programs, youth and adult programs, and court-mandated programs.

San Luis Obispo Center  
2180 Johnson Avenue  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Phone: (805) 781-4275

Arroyo Grande Center  
1106 Grand Avenue  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Phone: (805)473-7080

Atascadero Center  
3556 El Camino Real  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
Phone: (805) 461-6080

Paso Robles Center  
1763 Ramada Drive  
Paso Robles, CA 3446  
Phone: (805) 226-3200

## **Law Enforcement**

The Sheriff-Coroner directs law enforcement operations in the unincorporated areas of the County from the County Operations Center, Kansas Avenue and Highway 1 near Camp San Luis. The County Jail and Juvenile Hall are also located there. For emergencies call 911. For non-emergencies the number is (805) 781-4550. Patrol Stations are:

Coast Station  
2099 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Osos, CA 93402  
93445  
Phone: (805) 528-6083

North Station  
356 North Main Street  
Templeton, CA 93465  
(805) 434-4290

South Station  
1681 Front Street  
Oceano, CA  
(805) 473-7100

## **Mental Health**

Offers mental health treatment services for youth, adults, and senior citizens and helps with family, personal, or psychiatric issues.

Mobile Crisis Center (24 hours) 1-800-838-1381  
Suicide Hotline 1-800-783-0607

Central Clinic  
2178 Johnson Avenue  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Phone: (805) 781-4700

South County Clinic  
354 S. Halcyon  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
(805) 473-7060

North County Clinic  
5575 Hospital Drive  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
(805) 461-6060

## **Public Health**

The Public Health Department includes the Environmental Health Services Division which prevents exposure to toxic substances, diseases, unsanitary conditions, and other environmental hazards through education and enforcement. Programs include hazardous materials management, food safety, water quality, recreational water and swimming pool monitoring, and solid waste facility oversight. The Family Health Services Division provides preventive health clinical services such as family planning, immunizations, tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted disease control, maternal health care, in-home support, hospice, and AIDS programs.

Phone: 781-5500.

## Public Libraries

There are fifteen public libraries in the San Luis Obispo City-County Library System: Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Cambria, Cayucos, Creston, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Nipomo, Oceano, San Luis Obispo, San Miguel, Santa Margarita, Shandon, Shell Beach, and Simmler. The City-County System also operates a Bookmobile that provides library service to rural parts of the County and some residential centers. Paso Robles has a city-operated public library. Grover Beach has a volunteer-run Community Library. County residents may also use the County Law Library in the County Government Center and the Cuesta College Library. The Library System is supported by the Foundation for SLO Public Libraries, P.O. Box 12942, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Phone: (805) 546-1392.

995 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8107  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Circulation: (805) 781-5991  
Audio-Visual: (805) 781-5782

Reference: (805) 781-5989

## Public Transit

Fixed route service is provided throughout the County. From a hub at the County Government Center in the city of San Luis Obispo, the **Regional Transit Authority (RTA)** has routes to Hearst Castle, San Miguel, and Santa Maria, with stops and transfer points along Highway 1 and Highway 101. Connections may be made to local routes in Cambria, Morro Bay, Los Osos, Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, Avila Beach, the Five Cities Area, Nipomo, and Santa Maria. Information about schedules and routes is available on the RTA website [www.slorta.org](http://www.slorta.org). **SLO Regional Rideshare** offers free online ride-matching, personalized trip planning, information on Park & Ride and alternative transportation options on their website [www.irideshard.org](http://www.irideshard.org). Via the 511 phone number find information on road conditions, public transportation, and ridesharing. Paratransit services are available for persons who qualify for specialized transportation under the Americans with Disabilities Act through Runabout Paratransit. Call 541-2544 for information and reservations.

Additionally, a private, non-profit, community-based organization, **Ride-On Transportation**, provides door-to-door transportation services countywide. Event shuttles, vanpools, medical shuttles, commute services, and individual-need trips are available. Phone: 541-8747. Email: [contact@ride-on.org](mailto:contact@ride-on.org). Website: [www.ride-on.org](http://www.ride-on.org).

## Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department operates three 18-hole golf courses: Morro Bay at Morro Bay State Park, Chalk Mountain in Atascadero, and Dairy Creek in El Chorro Regional Park on Highway 1, north of San Luis Obispo.

Three County parks provide camping facilities at Coastal Dunes RV Park & Campground in Grover Beach, El Chorro Regional Park off Hwy 1 between San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay, Oceano Park & Campground south of Pismo State Beach, and Lopez County Park on Lopez Lake. The Lopez facility includes nature programs, marina services, and monthly fish plantings. The Santa Margarita

Lake Recreational Area offers day-use picnic, boating, and fishing opportunities.

For facilities reservations call 781-5930 or go to: <http://reservations.slocountyparks.com>

County trails include the Bishop's Peak Natural Area, the Bob Jones Trail, and the Lopez Lake Trail. The County also supports the Historical Museum on Monterey and Broad Streets in San Luis Obispo.

Day-use park facilities maintained by the County are:

- Avila Beach Park
- Biddle Regional Park, Arroyo Grande
- Cayucos Beach
- CW Clark Park, Shandon
- Cuesta Park, San Luis Obispo
- El Chorro Regional Park
- Hardie Park, Cayucos
- Heilmann Regional Park, Atascadero
- Los Osos Community Park
- Nipomo Community Park
- Oceano Memorial Park
- Paul Andrew Park, Cayucos
- San Miguel Park
- Santa Margarita Community Park
- Shamel Park, Cambria
- Templeton Park

There are several dog parks in the County. For information on all park facilities go to [www.slocountyparks.org](http://www.slocountyparks.org).

### **Social Services**

The County Department of Social Services provides financial and social service programs for eligible persons and families, consistent with federal, state, and county laws. The County administers these programs from offices in San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Grover Beach, and Paso Robles. Further information may be obtained from the Department of Social Services, 3433 S. Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, 93401. Phone: 781-1600; website: [www.slodss.org](http://www.slodss.org).

Arroyo Grande Office  
1086 E. Grand Avenue  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Phone: (805) 474-2000

Atascadero Office  
9415 El Camino Real  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
Phone: (805) 461-6000

Nipomo Office  
681 W. Teft St. Suite 1  
Nipomo, CA 93444  
Phone: (805) 931-1800

Paso Robles Office  
530 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
Phone: (805) 237-3110

# Voter Information

The number of registered voters in San Luis Obispo County as of June 7, 2016 was 155,902.

## **County Clerk/Elections Office:**

Room D-120, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo. Phone: 781-5080.  
6565 Capistrano Avenue, Atascadero. Phone: 461-6041.  
[www.co.slo.ca.us](http://www.co.slo.ca.us)

## **To vote in California, you must be, on or before Election Day:**

- A citizen of the United States;
- Eighteen years of age;
- Registered to vote 15 days before Election Day;
- Not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.

## **Where to register: County Clerk/Elections Office.**

Register to vote online at: <http://registertovote.ca.gov>.

Mail-in registration cards are also available at post offices, city halls, public libraries, and many banks.

## **You should re-register if you:**

- Change your name or address, or
- Change your party affiliation, or
- Are not currently registered in San Luis Obispo County

## **If you have moved, where do you vote?**

If you move *within* California after registration closes (15 days before the election), you may return to your old precinct to vote in person or you may apply for a vote-by-mail ballot to vote in your former precinct.

If you move *into* California fewer than 15 days before an election for President of the United States and were a qualified voter in another state, and would otherwise qualify as a California voter, you may vote for President and Vice-President. Contact the County Elections Office for assistance.

If you are registered in San Luis Obispo County and have moved *within* the County, you may vote in your new precinct by following certain procedures. Contact the County Elections Office for information.

Whenever you move, you should re-register in your new precinct as soon as possible.

**To obtain a vote-by-mail ballot:**

The back cover of your County of San Luis Obispo Sample Ballot (mailed to you before the election) has a vote-by-mail ballot application form with instructions.

If you are registered in another county in California, send a written request to the Clerk of that county. Include your address as registered, your signature, and the address to which you wish the ballot sent. Requests for vote-by-mail ballots must be RECEIVED in the County Elections Office 7 days prior to the election.

**Political Divisions in San Luis Obispo County:**

U.S. House of Representatives	District 24
California State Senate	District 17
California State Assembly	District 35

**Election Days:**

California Primary Election: The first Tuesday after the first Monday in June of even-numbered years.

U.S. General Election: The first Tuesday after the first Monday of November of even-numbered years.

County, city, school district, and special district elections coincide with either Primary or General Elections. Contact the County Elections Office for information.

**Top-Two Primary:**

In 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14 creating the “Top Two Primary,” which replaced the traditional party-nominated primary. Under the Top-Two Primary laws, all candidates running, regardless of their party preference, appear on a single combined ballot, and voters can vote for any candidate from any political party. The candidates who receive the highest and second-highest number of votes cast at the Primary election advance to the General election. This change applies to federal and state contests, except for the Presidential primaries. The rules for non-partisan contests for county, city, school and special district offices did not change.

