FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mark Hutchinson, Deputy Director
County Department of Public Works (805) 781-5458
Noah Evans, Whale Rock Supervisor
City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department (805) 995-3701

SPILLWAY CONDITION ASSESSMENTS FOR LOPEZ AND WHALE ROCK DAMS –
July 31, 2017 – In the months following the Oroville Dam Spillway failure, the California
Department of Water Resources has directed a detailed condition assessment of spillways at over
93 dams in the State of California. The spillways at Lopez Dam, near Arroyo Grande, and
Whale Rock Dam, in Cayucos, are included in the State’s directive. Staff at the County, responsible
for Lopez Dam, and the City, responsible for Whale Rock Dam, are moving expeditiously forward
to complete these assessments. Although neither spillway exhibits any of the conditions that
early reports indicate may have led to the failure at Oroville, both the County and City are closely
following the information developed out of the Oroville assessment. Maintaining public safety at
these facilities is our top concern and we are committed to preparing assessments that meet the
highest standards of engineering analysis.

Also, in June of this year, the legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 92.
SB 92 requires the preparation and State review of a “dam failure inundation map” and
Emergency Action Plan for “high and extremely high hazard” dams in California. This designation
is based solely on the impacts that an uncontrolled release of water would have on the
downstream community, not the actual condition of the dam and spillway. Both Lopez and Whale
Rock dams are in this category, however, both dams already have published inundation maps
and Emergency Action Plans. SB 92 will provide a process whereby both the Department of Water
Resources and the State Office of Emergency Services will review the maps to ensure adequacy.

As more information becomes available, both the County and the City will keep the community
fully informed.

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