



SALINAS RIVER FLOWING “LIVE STREAM” –

On February 14, 2025, at 7:17 AM, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department observed visible surface water flow (commonly referred to as a “Live Stream”) between the Salinas Reservoir Dam (Santa Margarita Lake) located in the community of Santa Margarita and the confluence of the Salinas and Nacimiento Rivers, because of this, the County has temporarily halted the release of inflow water from the reservoir.

Under the provisions of the 1972 “Live Stream” ruling by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), water inflow to the Salinas Reservoir shall be released downstream and not stored unless a “Live Stream” event is observed. The water currently flowing in the river is due to rainfall and not releases from the reservoir.

“Live streams play a key role in replenishing local groundwater, helping to store more water in reservoirs for future use as drinking water” says County Public Works Water Systems Superintendent, Kyle James.

The Salinas Reservoir serves as one of the City of San Luis Obispo’s primary water supply sources.

When the “live stream” no longer exists, the County will resume releasing inflow water from the reservoir to the Salinas River.

For questions regarding the Salinas River “Live Stream”, please contact Public Works Water Utilities Division Program Manager, Laura Holder (805) 781-5135.

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