SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)

SLO City/County Library Community Room — Wednesday, February 5, 2025
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA — 1:30 pm

Via Zoom Teleconference:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88647250277?pwd=NDRwQXVqMjZkVzN2Z0x5RkR3QmNDUT09
Call-in information: 1 (669) 900 6833, Meeting ID: 886 4725 0277, Passcode: 181580

Note: Members must be physically present in order to count toward the quorum and cast votes.

WRAC Agenda

1.	Introductions & Welcome	1:30pm
2.	Approval of November 6, 2024 WRAC Meeting Minutes	1:35pm
3.	Receive Update from County Staff regarding the DESAL Plan	1:40pm
4.	Receive Presentation from County Staff regarding Participating in the next phase of the State Water Project's Delta Conveyance Project Planning	2:05pm
5.	Ongoing Updates: a. Rain & Reservoir Report b. Drought Updates c. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts d. Flood Control Zones e. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) f. Master Water Report (MWR) Update g. State Water Project (SWP) h. Desalination i. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information	2:25pm
6.	Future Agenda Items	2:35pm
7.	Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda	2:40pm
8.	Adjourn Meeting	2:45pm

This agenda packet and attachments are available online at www.slocounty.ca.gov/wrac

Next Regular Meeting: March 5, 2025, 1:30 pm
SLO City/County Library Community Room
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

Please contact WRAC Secretary, Brendan Clark, with any questions. bclark@co.slo.ca.us

Purpose of the Committee:
To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board of Supervisors specific water resource and water conservation programs with recognition of the economic and environmental values of the programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated January 23, 2024

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SLO City/County Library Community Room
995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

Wednesday, November 6th, 2024
1:30PM

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Chairperson: Thomas Burhenn
Vice Chairperson: Jim Guthrie
Secretary: Brendan Clark

The following action minutes are listed as they were acted upon by the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) as listed on the Regular Meeting agenda for **November 6, 2024** together with staff reports and related documents attached thereto and incorporated therein by reference.

The video recording of the meeting and materials submitted to the WRAC are available online: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Water-Resources-Advisory-Committee-(WRAC).aspx

Call to order at 1:30 PM

1) **Determination of a Quorum and Introductions**

The number of voting Members present is 20. Quorum met.

2) **Approval of October 2, 2024, WRAC Meeting Minutes**
Item start time ~ 00:02:10

T. Burhenn introduces the item and asks for questions or comments from the Committee.

C. Mulholland moves to approve the October 2, 2024 meeting minutes, as presented.
J. Guthrie seconds the motion.
Motion carries 18-2-1.

3) **Receive Presentation on Mobile Irrigation Lab Program from Coastal San Luis and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation Districts**
Item start time ~ 00:02:57

T. Burhenn introduces the item. L. Danna from the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD and H. Richard from the Coastal San Luis RCD present on the Mobile Irrigation Lab Program.

G. Grewal comments on the need to evaluate the numerous irrigation ponds throughout the county. L. Danna responds.

C. Bourbeau asks if the members of the RCD Board of Directors are elected or approved, and how one would apply for any open vacancies if prerequisites were met. H. Richard responds.

D. Chipping asks about the use and availability of satellite data. L. Danna and H. Richard respond.

J. Guthrie asks if other RCD's have similar funding relationships with Counties and if they offer similar roles or programs. L. Danna and H. Richard responds.

T. Walters asks if the annual program will continue and if the District provides desired outcomes when the funding gets renewed.

J. Hendrickson asks if a the Upper-Salinas Las Tablas RCD could provide landscape audits with future funding. L. Danna responds.

M. van Ryn asks how people can learn more about the Mobile Irrigation Program. L. Danna and H. Richard respond.

L. Chipping asks if the RCDs are required to follow up after their audits are completed and when recommendations are made, or if they need approval to do so. L. Danna and H. Richard respond.

4) <u>Receive Updates from Community Service Districts Members</u>
Item start time ~ 00:54:45

T. Burhenn introduces the item and asks for updates from present Community Service Districts Members.

D. Logan provides updates on Templeton CSD.

S. Carter and J. Green ask for clarification on the term "water unit". D. Logan responds.

J. Green asks if "water unit" is similar or the same as an Equivalency Dwelling Unit (EDU). D. Logan responds.

J. Green provides updates on Cambria CSD.

E. Eby provides updates on Nipomo CSD.

P. Brown provides updates on Oceano CSD.

E. Greening asks about the status of the Central Coast Blue project. P. Brown responds.

G. Grewal comments on San Miguel CSD membership changes and an ongoing project.

E. Greening asks about the management status of San Simeon CSD. T. Burhenn and B. Clark respond.

5) <u>Process for Review of Draft Policy on State Water Project Priorities and Criteria for Use</u>

Item start time ~ 01:07:28

T. Burhenn introduces the item and B. Clark provides a brief update on the reviewal process of the draft policy on SWP priorities and criteria for use.

G. Grewal comments on the use of State Water and the financial concerns tied to its uses.

E. Greening asks if the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) participates in the approval process. B. Clark responds.

***6)* <u>Ongoing Updates</u>**

Item start time ~ 01:12:42

a) <u>Rain & Reservoir Report</u>
C. Mulholland comments on the early arrival and amount of rain recorded on her property.

E. Greening comments on the slight chance of more rain coming the following week.

b) <u>California Drought Monitor Summary</u>
No comments.

c) <u>Groundwater Basin Management Efforts</u>
G. Grewal comments on the 10-year anniversary of SGMA, the volume of studies and management efforts in the Paso Basin, Nacimiento water usage and capacity loss, and lack of stormwater capture projects.

d) <u>Flood Control Zones</u>
No comments.

e) <u>Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)</u>
No comments.

f) <u>Master Water Report (MWR) Update</u>
No comments.

g) <u>State Water Project (SWP)</u>
No comments.

h) <u>Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)</u>
No comments.

i) <u>Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances</u>

E. Greening comments on Item 13 of the next Board of Supervisors agenda regarding Winter 2023 storm impacts to County Parks and the status of storm response efforts.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information
No comments.

7) Future Agenda Items
Item start time ~ 01:16:53

D. Roques suggests receiving an update or presentation from the Regional Water Control Board on their well testing program.

S. Carter concurs and would be interested in receiving an update on testing for both domestic wells and irrigation wells.

A. Pease suggests having more engagement and communication with the Regional Water Control Board to better understand their work efforts impacting the County.

8) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda

No comments.

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC) 2024

Organization	Representative	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jun*	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT															
District 1	Melanie Blankenship	M													
	Elizabeth Covert	A													
District 2	(Vacant)	M													
	Neal MacDougall	A													
District 3	Michael Nordstrom	M													
	Natalie Risner	A													
District 4	Thomas Burhenn	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	David Crater	A						X					X	X	
District 5	Allen Duckworth	M					X	X	X					X	
	Fred Hoey	A													
AT-LARGE															
Agriculture At-Large	Jon Winstead	M			X		X		X					X	
	Patricia Wilmore	A			X		O	X	X				O	O	
Agriculture At-Large	Mary van Ryn	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Jason Yeager	A						X						O	
Development At-Large	Tayler Simpson	M													
	Tim Walters	A			X				X				X	X	
Environmental At-Large	Christine Mulholland	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Dolores Howard	A													
Environmental At-Large	Eric Greening	M					X	X	X				X	X	
	(Vacant)	A													
Environmental At-Large	David Chipping	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Stephnie Wald	A												X	
RCDs															
Coastal San Luis RCD	Dominic Roques	M					X	X	X				X	X	
	Linda Chipping	A			X		X	X						X	
Upper Salinas RCD	George Kendall	M													
	Tom Mora	A			X				X					X	
OTHERS															
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil	M													
	Jaime Hendrickson	A			X		X		X					X	
California Men's Colony	Scott Buffaloe	M													
	Mike Schwartz	A													
Camp SLO	(Vacant)	M													
	Jubilee Satele	A													
County Farm Bureau	Steve Carter	M			X		X		X				X	X	
	Paul Clark	A													
Cuesta College	(Vacant)	M													
	(Vacant)	A													
Golden State Water	Matt Cook	M			X		X		X				O		
	Mark Zimmer	A			X			O						O	
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Stephen Sinton	M						X						X	
	Ray Shady	A							X				X		
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	Lee Nesbit	M			X		X						X	X	
	Hilary Graves	A													
CITIES															
City of Arroyo Grande	Jim Guthrie	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Kristen Barneich	A													
City of Atascadero	Charles Bourbeau	M						X						X	
	Nick DeBar	A													
City of Grover Beach	Clint Weirick	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Robert Robert	A													
City of Morro Bay	Laurel Barton	M							X				X	X	
	Cyndee Edwards	A													
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M													
	Kirk Gonzalez	A													
City of Pismo Beach	Marcia Guthrie	M							X						
	Stacy Inman	A													
City of San Luis Obispo	Andy Pease	M			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Emily Francis	A													
CSDs															
Avila Beach CSD	Brad Hagemann	M													
	(Vacant)	A													
Cambria CSD	Jim Green	M			X		X	X					X	X	
	Tristan Reaper	A			X			O							
Heritage Ranch CSD	Scott Duffield	M			X										
	Doug Groshart	A													
Los Osos CSD	Chuck Cesena	M													
	Ron Munds	A			X				X				X		
Nipomo CSD	Ed Eby	M			X			X	X					X	
	Phil Henry	A					X						X		
Oceano CSD	Allene Villa	M					X	O	X						
	Beverly Joyce-Suneson	A													
San Miguel CSD	Kelly Dodds	M							X						
	Dustin Pittman	A													
San Simeon CSD	(Vacant)	M													
	(Vacant)	A													
Templeton CSD	Debra Logan	M			O		X	X					O	O	
	Navid Fardanesh	A													
STAFF															
Public Works	Courtney Howard	Staff			X		X						O	O	
	Brendan Clark	Staff			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Jenny Wililamson	Staff			O		O	O					O	X	
	Joey Steil	Staff			X		X	X	X				X	O	
*Notes: M=Member; A=Alternate Member, O=attended virtually, *=Special Meeting*					**27**		**25**	**25**	**26**				**25**	**28**	

Water Resources Advisory Committee - Roll Call Vote Form

Meeting Date: 11/06/2024

Organization	Representative		ITEM 2: Oct. 2 Minutes																			
			AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
DISTRICT																						
District 1	Melanie Blankenship	M																				
	Elizabeth Covert	A																				
District 2	(Vacant)	M																				
	Neal MacDougall	A																				
District 3	Michael Nordstrom	M																				
	Natalie Risner	A																				
District 4	Thomas Burhenn	M	X																			
	David Crater	A																				
District 5	Allen Duckworth	M	X																			
	Fred Hoey	A																				
AT-LARGE																						
Agriculture At-Large	Jon Winstead	M	X																			
	Patricia Wilmore	A																				
Agriculture At-Large	Mary van Ryn	M	X																			
	Jason Yeager	A																				
Development At-Large	Tayler Simpson	M																				
	Tim Walters	A	X																			
Environmental At-Large	Christine Mulholland	M	X																			
	Dolores Howard	A																				
Environmental At-Large	Eric Greening	M	X																			
	(Vacant)	A																				
Environmental At-Large	David Chipping	M	X																			
	Stephnie Wald	A																				
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Upper Salinas RCD	George Kendall	M																				
	Tom Mora	A	X																			
OTHERS																						
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil	M																				
	Jaime Hendrickson	A			X																	
California Men's Colony	Scott Buffaloe	M																				
	Mike Schwartz	A																				
Camp SLO	(Vacant)	M																				
	Jubilee Satele	A																				
County Farm Bureau	Steve Carter	M	X																			
	Paul Clark	A																				
Cuesta College	(Vacant)	M																				
	(Vacant)	A																				
Golden State Water	Matt Cook	M																				
	Mark Zimmer	A																				
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Stephen Sinton	M	X																			
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Estrella El Pomar Creston Water District	Lee Nesbit	M	X																			
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	Nick DeBar	A																				
City of Grover Beach	Clint Weirick	M	X																			
	Robert Robert	A																				
City of Morro Bay	Laurel Barton	M	X																			
	Cyndee Edwards	A																				
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M																				
	Kirk Gonzales	A																				
City of Pismo Beach	Marcia Guthrie	M																				
	Stacy Inman	A																				
City of San Luis Obispo	Andy Pease	M				X																
	Emily Francis	A																				
CSDs																						
Avila Beach CSD	Brad Hagemann	M																				
	(Vacant)	A																				
Cambria CSD	Jim Green	M	X																			
	Tristan Reaper	A																				
Heritage Ranch CSD	Scott Duffield	M																				
	Doug Groshart	A																				
Los Osos CSD	Chuck Cesena	M																				
	Ron Munds	A																				
Nipomo CSD	Ed Eby	M			X																	
	Phil Henry	A																				
Oceano CSD	Allene Villa	M																				
	Beverly Joyce-Suneson	A																				
San Miguel CSD	Kelly Dodds	M																				
	Dustin Pittman	A																				
San Simeon CSD	(Vacant)	M																				
	(Vacant)	A																				
Templeton CSD	Debra Logan	M																				
	Navid Fardanesh	A																				
		37	18	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

QUORUM (MIN. 12): 20

MOTION 1

Item #: 2 Pass/Fail?: Pass

Motion Maker: C.Mulholland Second: J.Guthrie

AYE: 18 NO: ____ ABSTAIN: 2 ABSENT: 1

Approval of the October 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION 2

Item #: ____ Pass/Fail?: ____

Motion Maker: ____ Second: ____

AYE: ____ NO: ____ ABSTAIN: ____ ABSENT: ____

MOTION 3

Item #: ____ Pass/Fail?: ____

Motion Maker: ____ Second: ____

AYE: ____ NO: ____ ABSTAIN: ____ ABSENT: ____

MOTION 4

Item #: ____ Pass/Fail?: ____

Motion Maker: ____ Second: ____

AYE: ____ NO: ____ ABSTAIN: ____ ABSENT: ____

MOTION 5

Item #: ____ Pass/Fail?: ____

Motion Maker: ____ Second: ____

AYE: ____ NO: ____ ABSTAIN: ____ ABSENT: ____

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)
GUEST LIST 2024

Signing-in is voluntary. You may attend the meeting regardless of whether you sign-in.

NAME	AFFILITATION (if any)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUN*	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Aaron Floyd	City of SLO						X							
Alejandra Celio	County of SLO						X					X	X	
Angela Ford	County of SLO						X							
Ann Fletcher	County of SLO					X								
Anthony Cemo	Carollo						X							
Austin McCollum	Black & Veach			X			X					X		
Brian Nelson	City of SLO			X										
Charles Varni	OCSD						X							
David Crater	District 4					X								
Greg Grewal	Cattlemans Association					X	X	X				X	X	
Hallie Richard	Coastal San Luis RCD												X	
Hank Krzciuk	Resident						X							
Harold Wright	County of SLO					X								
Heather Freed	Water Systems Consulting (WSC)						X							
Isabella Garrone	City of SLO					X	X							
Jeff Edwards	Resident			X		X	X						X	
Jeff Szytel	Water Systems Consulting (WSC)						X							
Jim Babcock	Water Systems Consulting (WSC)						X							
Josh Porter	County of SLO			X		X	X					X	X	
Julie Tacker	Resident						X						X	
Kate Ballantyne	County of SLO							X					X	
Katie Franco	County of SLO							X						
Kyle Anderson	City of SLO						X					X		
Laura Danna	Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD												X	
Leah Readal	Cambria CSD			X										
Louis Lafebvre	Carollo			X										
Matthew Scrudato	Santa Barbara County Water Agency			X			X					X		
Mike Chism	San Miguelito MWC							X						
Murray Powell	Resident												X	
Nate Page	Conference E.S.												X	
Navid Fardanesh	TCSD							X						
Nick Teague	City of SLO			X		X	X	X				X		
Nola Engelskirger	County of SLO							X						
Paul Clark	SLO Farm Bureau						X	X						
Peter Brown	OCSD							X				X	X	
Rob Morrow	Water Systems Consulting (WSC)						X							
Sara Ko	DWR											X		
Shawna Scott	City of SLO						X							
Spencer Waterman	Water Systems Consulting (WSC)						X							
Tim Kershaw	Cleath-Harris					X						X	X	
Toby Moore	Golden State Water Company					X	X					X	X	
Troy Barnhart	County of SLO						X							
Wes Thompson	County of SLO							X						
Zach Merkel	J. Lohr Vineyards							X						

**Special Meeting*

TO: **Water Resources Advisory Committee**

FROM: **Courtney Howard, Water Resources Division Manager**

DATE: **February 5, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #3: Receive Update from Staff regarding the DESAL Plan**

Recommendation

Receive an update from Staff regarding the recently awarded DESAL Plan contract.

Background

On January 14, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Carollo Engineers for development of the Desalination Executable Solutions and Logistics (DESAL) Plan. This approval also included authorization to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSMART grant in the amount of $548,410.

One of the first tasks for the consultant team is creating a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, see Attachment 2, Task 2.3. This Plan will be presented to the WRAC at an upcoming meeting for review and comment before being finalized.

The Carollo contract approved by the Board on 1/14/2025 can be viewed here:
https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/18558

The previous presentation to the WRAC can be viewed here (forward to minute 32:30):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rqq78yBtc5w

Attachments

1. Map of DESAL Plan Participants
2. Scope of Work from the Contract

Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics (DESAL) Plan Participants

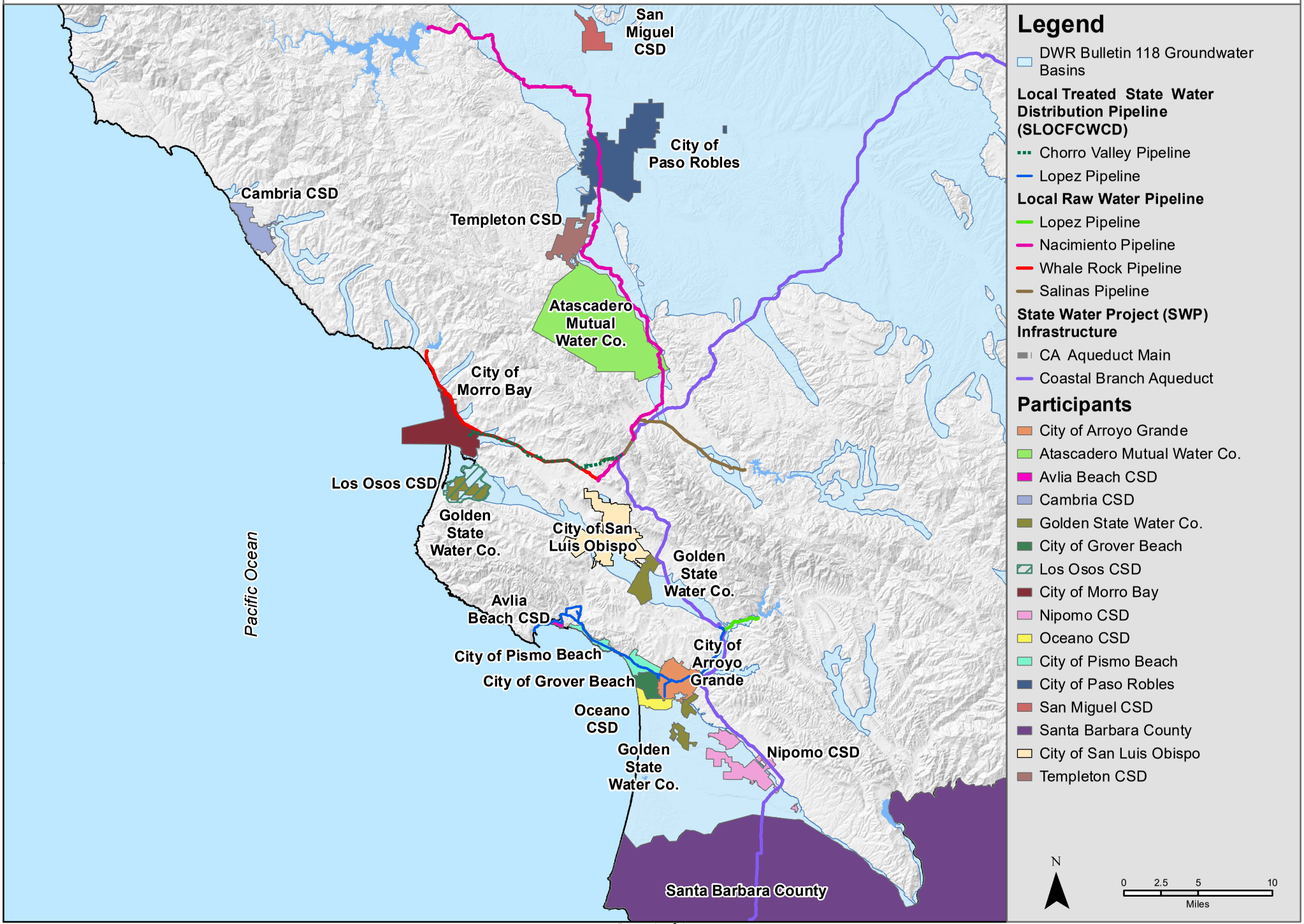


Exhibit A - Scope of Work

PROJECT SPECIFIC TASKS

Task 1 – Project Management

Consultant will provide project management services, including preparation of monthly invoices, progress reports, and as- needed schedule updates. Additionally, this task includes coordination with the District and the consultant team members.

Task 1.1 Kickoff Meeting and Monthly Progress meetings - Consultant will prepare agendas, meeting materials and notes for up to 24 monthly progress meetings assumed at 1 hour duration and held virtually. A kickoff meeting will be held as the first monthly meeting that will be with District Staff only. A separate kickoff with partner agencies will be held as part of the Stakeholder engagement under Task 2. Consultant will prepare a data and information request for discussion at the kickoff meeting and will update it as needed in subsequent monthly meetings.

Task 1.2 Bi-Monthly Check-in Calls – Consultant will conduct up to 24 ½ hour bi-monthly check-in calls (held virtually) with the District's project manager.

Task 1.3 Project Administration/Invoicing - Consultant will set up and host a MS Teams Site to share data, deliverables, meeting materials, and a master action and decision item log. Consultant will prepare monthly invoices and progress reports.

Task 1 Deliverables:

- 24 Progress meeting agendas, materials, and notes.
- Data and information request.
- One master action and decision item log.
- 24 Monthly invoices and progress reports.
- Project schedule with updates (as needed).

Task 1 Assumptions:

- All progress meetings and bi-monthly meetings will be held virtually via Teams.
- Progress meetings assumed at 1 hour. Project duration assumed to be 24 months, so up to 24 virtual progress meetings will be held. Kickoff meeting will be first scheduled monthly meeting.
- Bi-monthly meetings held two weeks after progress meeting, not held on same week as progress meeting. Assumed to be ½ hour check in calls. Up to 24 biweekly calls will be held.
- Submittals (meeting minutes, agendas) shall be provided in electronic copy in native filetype (.pdf, .ppt, and .docx) and transmitted via email or secure file transfer. All deliverables shall be electronic only.
- Based on the data request, District shall furnish the Consultant with available studies, reports and other data pertinent to the Consultant's services.

Task 2 – Stakeholder Engagement

Consultant will work with District staff to develop a stakeholder engagement plan that incorporates the goals for transparency throughout the process. The process is anticipated to be adaptive and evolve over the course of the project depending on stakeholder responses to the plan implementation. To achieve this adaptive approach, the District staff and Consultant will have regular check-ins during monthly meetings to discuss if the stakeholder engagement scope needs to be adjusted for better effective engagement and outcomes. The goal is to keep the budget for engagement the same for the project but modify stakeholder engagement scope as needed. For budgeting purposes, assumptions have been made for the activities that will be conducted as part of this task, however, final task activities will be defined in the stakeholder engagement plan.

Task 2.1 Kickoff Meeting with Partner Agencies (Plan Participants)

Consultant will conduct an in-person kickoff meeting with Partner Agencies near the beginning of the project to discuss project scope and schedule, goals and objectives and to solicit feedback on project concepts and screening criteria. Meeting is expected to be a two-hour meeting that will require preparation of a Power Point presentation ahead of time.

Task 2.2 Key Opinion Leader Audits

Consultant will conduct one on one (1:1) virtual meetings with District staff and up to 20 key opinion leaders of varying interests (e.g., elected officials, stakeholder groups such as NGOs or rate payer associations, members of public with significant voices or spans of influence who may provide important early insight and/or shape the direction of the project in critical ways) in the region. Purpose of these virtual meetings (anticipated to be ½ hour each) is to allow for honest and open feedback that is not in a group nor public setting. Comments from individual meetings will be summarized into general topics of concern, rather than documented as transcript, and will be used to help define engagement plan needs and may help inform the project approach. Consultant, in collaboration with District staff, will develop an initial list of key opinion leaders. Plan participants may also be solicited for ideas of key opinion leaders. Consultant assumes that District staff will assist with scheduling and setting up calls with each individual and the Consultant. Consultant will conduct the interview and develop a not-for-attribution summary with a list of those who participated.

Task 2.3 Develop Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Consultant will develop an admin draft, public draft and final stakeholder engagement plan that outlines the planned periodic meetings and communication tools with the District, Countywide Water Action Team (CWAT), DESAL Plan participants, Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), regional stakeholders, regulatory agencies, District Board, and the community to present progress and gather input on the project at key milestones. The stakeholder engagement plan will consist of a roadmap visual indicating key engagement milestones with the various stakeholders groups in a graphic schedule format along with annotations on planned meeting formats and engagement tactics. The public draft engagement plan will be posted on the District's webpage and comments on the plan will be able to be submitted via a web-based comment tool. Comments will be considered and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.

Task 2.4. Implement Stakeholder Engagement Plan

For budgeting purposes, assumptions have been made for the activities that will be conducted as part of this task; however, final task activities will be defined in the stakeholder engagement plan (Task 2.3). The following subtasks are a preliminary estimate of the required meetings and engagement tools. Upon completion of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Consultant and the District may agree to adjust this task with the intent to remain within the same budget.

Task 2.4.1 Subregional Community Outreach Meetings

Up to six (6) in person community outreach meetings with up to a 2-hour duration will be held to present information about the project needs, goals, activities and findings. It is anticipated that there will be up to two topical presentations developed over the course of the project and will be presented at three locations (expected to be 1 in north coast,1 in south coast of county, and 1 in mid county). Expected meetings topics could include: 1) Introduction to Project including project need, goals and objectives, broader water picture and how desalination could fit in, engagement opportunities during project, and what evaluation criteria are important to stakeholders; and 2) identified project concepts, screening and developed alternatives, and recommendations for future study. The first group of three meetings will be held early in the project and the second group of three meetings will be held later in the project (but before the public draft study). Online surveys will be used during meetings to solicit and record input (see task 2.4.6). It will be made clear in the first set of meetings that there is opportunity to review and provide comments via the WRAC, District webpage and online comment portal. It is assumed that Consultant will not arrange for or provide appropriate venue(s), A/V equipment, etc. as well as provide the public noticing ahead of time to solicit stakeholder attendance.

Task 2.4.2 Working Meetings with Plan Participants

Up to eight (8) virtual meetings will be held with individual plan participants or small groups of plan participants. It is anticipated that organizing groups around County Water Planning Areas (WPAs) will be helpful to organize discussions about needs for new supplies, existing and future supply reliability, projected growth and water needs, and potential siting for desalination projects. These virtual meetings are anticipated to be 1-1.5 hours in duration. Consultant will develop a short PowerPoint presentation in advance of the meetings to facilitate discussion about topics where input is needed.

Task 2.4.3 Presentations to County Water Action Team (CWAT)

Up to four (4) presentations will be prepared for CWAT throughout the project. It is expected that Consultant's presentations at these meetings will be conducted virtually. Purpose of meetings is to provide project updates and solicit input from regional water agencies and relevant participants. Meetings are expected to be up to 1-hr with a presentation followed by time for questions and feedback. Consultant will collaborate with District staff in scheduling these meetings for when the CWAT agenda can accommodate the time required.

Task 2.4.4 Small Group Meetings with Regulatory and Permitting Agencies

Up to three (3) virtual meetings will be held with regulatory and permitting agencies. Effort will be to group regulatory agencies on specific topics to be discussed (e.g. outfalls and discharge permitting) so that the 3 meetings are held with small groups of relevant regulators. Each meeting is expected

to be 1 – 1.5 hours in duration. PowerPoint presentations will be prepared to facilitate discussion about project need, scope of study and soliciting input on regulatory and permitting hurdles.

Task 2.4.5 Small Group Meetings with Regional Interest Groups

Up to three (3) virtual meetings will be held with regional interest groups such as tribes and non-governmental organizations. Each meeting is expected to be 1 – 1.5 hours in duration. Powerpoint presentations will be prepared to facilitate discussion about project need, scope of study and soliciting input.

Task 2.4.6 Support DESAL Plan webpage and web-based surveys

Consultant will provide content for a dedicated DESAL Plan webpage on District website including figures, text and schedules and will develop questions for surveys.

Consultant assumes that it will not:

- create or update a dedicated DESAL Plan webpage on District website;
- record the subregional community workshops and provide video links on the website;
- provide a comment form on webpage to accept public comments and nor be responsible for compiling comments and delivering to the consultant for incorporating into project as appropriate;
- set up a webpage to facilitate conducting surveys as a way to solicit feedback during project;
- upload additional materials by utilizing content developed for the report and project meetings, and any postings to social media;
- or pay any fees associated with using online survey tools such as Mentimeter or similar platform.

Task 2.4.7 Toolkits for Partner Agencies

A tool kit consisting of a DESAL powerpoint presentation, frequently asked questions and key message points will be provided to Plan participants for use in conducting meetings at their respective agencies or communities. Assume initial toolkit will be provided near beginning of project to provide plan participants' consistent understanding and messaging of the discuss project need and project objectives of project throughout its duration. If budget allows, Toolkit will be updated after project concepts, screening and alternatives have been developed. The toolkit will be at a high level for the entire DESAL project and will not be specific to each plan participant.

Task 2.4.8 Presentations to WRAC and County Board of Supervisors

Up to four (4) presentations will be made to Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and one (1) presentation to District Board of Supervisors to provide update on project and recommendations. Summaries of Draft deliverables will be presented at WRAC meetings with opportunities for public comment. Powerpoint presentations will be prepared. Meetings will be attended in-person, assumed for 1 hour meetings. It is assumed that WRAC meetings will provide the venue for public comments on deliverables. Therefore, it is assumed that the public draft engagement plan will be discussed at one meeting, and the public draft feasibility study at another meeting. At these WRAC meetings, public comments will be accepted on the deliverables and

public will be directed to the online surveys and comment submittal portal (see task 2.8). The final report will be presented to the Board.

Task 2 Deliverables:

- Admin draft, public draft and final stakeholder engagement plan (SEP)
- Opinion leader list and audit summary
- Other deliverables as defined in the SEP, such as stakeholder communication toolkits (PowerPoint, FAQs and message points)
- Initial webpage content (text and figures)
- Meeting agendas, materials, presentations and notes in final file format (e.g. word, ppt or pdf)

Task 2 Assumptions:

- Plan Participant kickoff meeting will be held in person for up to 2 hours
- 1:1 key opinion leader audits will be coordinated and scheduled by others and not exceed 1/2 hour per meeting, to be held virtually.
- 2 Subregional meeting topics held at 3 locations for 6 total meetings, in person for up to 2 hours
- 8 working meetings with Plan participants held virtually for 1-1.5 hours each
- 4 presentations to CWAT, virtual, up to 1 hour each
- 3 regulatory/permitting meetings, virtual, 1-1.5 hours
- 3 regional interest groups, virtual, 1-1.5 hours
- Webpage updates will utilize information prepared as part of the Report and PowerPoint presentations for workshops
- Up to three online surveys will be developed, consisting of up to 10 questions each and one round of revisions per survey.
- Submittals (meeting minutes, toolkits, plans, PowerPoints) shall be provided in electronic copy (.pdf, .ppt or .docx) and transmitted via email or secure file transfer. All deliverables shall be electronic only and a transmittal log will be maintained.
- Consolidated comments will be provided to Consultant within 2 weeks of delivery of draft versions of deliverables. Consultant will incorporate and address comments as appropriate in the final version of deliverables.

Task 3 – Preliminary Planning and Feasibility Study

A USBR Feasibility Study requires meeting specific requirements found in the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Manual Directives and Standards (WTR-11-01), including:

- A crosswalk table detailing where all requirements are addressed and briefly how addressed.
- Chp 1 – Introductory Information - Including project sponsor, study area description and site specific project area.

- Chp 2 – Statement of Problem and Needs - Including key water resource management problems, need for new supplies over next 20 years, description of current supplies and other sources of water, current and future demands, water quality concerns.
- Chp 3 – Water Reclamation, Recycling and Desalination Opportunities - Including identifying sources of water, description of uses/market, consultation with potential customers, community incentives, agencies jurisdictions, locations of sources and types of facilities required, current reuse, wastewater disposal and technologies currently in use.
- Chp 4 – Description of Alternatives - Including non-federal funding condition, objective of alternatives, description of proposed projects, cost estimates, waste stream discharges, alternative technologies that could be used.
- Chp 5 – Economic Analysis - Including conditions without project, contribution project would make towards alleviating problems, description and costs of other alternatives that could meet the same demand as proposed project, description of alternatives considered that accomplish the same objectives and benefits, costs of alternatives most likely to be implemented in absence of project, and qualitative benefits of project.
- Chp 6 – Selection of Proposed Project - Including justification of why project is selected (in terms of meeting objectives, demands, needs, cost effectiveness…), if project reduces or eliminates development of new supplies or diversions from surface or groundwaters, and if project eliminates expansion of wastewater facilities.
- Chp 7 – Environmental Considerations and Potential Effects – Including environmental discussion of project and alternatives, impacts to endangered species, public health or cultural resources, a description of potential compliance measures, a description of impacts to regional water supply and quality, description of public involvement, and effect on historical properties.
- Chp 8 – Legal and Institutional Requirements – Including water rights issues, legal and institutional requirements, need for interagency agreements, permitting procedures and requirements, and projected discharge requirements.
- Chp 9 – Financial Capability of Sponsor – Including proposed implementation schedule, willingness of non-federal sponsor to pay for capital and O&M costs, a funding plan for construction and ongoing O&M costs, and sources of funding.
- Chp 10 – Research Needs – Including description of research needs and objectives, basis for USBR participation, who will conduct needed research and timeframe to complete research.

To meet these requirements for a USBR Feasibility Study in a way that considers and integrates State guidance, the following tasks will be conducted:

Task 3.1 Gather Data and Identify Need

Consultant will identify any data needed for each section of the feasibility report. An initial list of data and information needed will be discussed in the project kick-off meeting and a data request will be submitted if needed. Consultant will develop Chapter 1 of the USBR Feasibility Study describing the following:

- Background information on County, including number and size of the Cities and utilities, number of customers, current water demands, and existing facilities. Portions of this

background information will be discussed in more detail in subsequent sections of the report.

- A description of the study area and an area/project map
- Definition of the study area, including where new water supply will be needed and developed.

Using information gathered from above, as well as the meetings with the plan participants in Task 2, consultant will describe the problem and need for regional desalination. It is anticipated that problems and needs will be identified on an individual agency basis, compiled and discussed at a water planning area (WPA) level of detail to facilitate discussion of regional opportunities, including Santa Barbara County, in the different geographic regions of San Luis Obispo County. Effort will build off of District's Master Water Plan efforts and current update. This information will be summarized into Chapter 2 of the USBR Feasibility Study and will include:

- Description of the problem and need for the Project. The existing supply sources will be discussed in comparison to projected demand.
- Description of current water supplies, including water rights, and plans for new facilities and integrated regional water management.
- Description of current and projected water demands for the next 20 years, including a description of the current and projected water supply and demand imbalances, utilizing existing available data and information prepared for the District's Master Water Report.
- Description of any water quality concerns.

In addition to the above efforts being required for a USBR Feasibility Study and alignment with the State's guidance for potential future permitting, this information on project need will feed into initial community outreach meetings and materials. The information regarding project needs and summaries of supplies versus demands will be presented at a CWAT meeting (Task 2.4.3) to confirm numbers.

Task 3.2 – Develop Screening Criteria and Methodology

In a parallel process with Task 3.1, Consultant will develop draft screening criteria and a methodology for rough and fine screening. Input provided by regional stakeholders in Task 2.4 will be used to help develop the draft screening criteria. The State's guidance for Desalination Siting will be considered in development of the screening criteria. Draft criteria will be presented at CWAT meeting (Task 2.4.3) . It is anticipated that the rough screening of concept alternatives will largely be based on technical fatal flaw evaluations to perform rough screening to viable alternatives.

Expected rough screening fatal flaw screening criteria include:

- Interested participants with water supply needs
- Proven and permittable technology
- Ability to permit (meet Ocean Plan and SWRCB requirements for intakes and outfall)
- Locations that have suitable hydrogeology for subsurface intakes as required by State
- Minimal impacts related to cultural resources, coastal/marine resources, biological habitat, land use

- Proximity to existing infrastructure including power supply, outfalls and water distribution systems, and nearby mitigation opportunities.

The fine screening of viable alternatives will use both qualitative and quantitative criteria and are expected to include:

- Costs – Planning level Capital, Operations and Maintenance and Lifecycle Costs, including mitigation requirements
- Water supply benefit, in acre-feet per year
- Conditions under which water would be delivered (e.g. drought only or baseline supply)
- Plan participants willingness to participate
- Potential partnerships and governance
- Public acceptance and support
- Implementation timeline

The actual criteria will be modified during the project based on input from the District and stakeholders. Criteria will be finalized prior to the alternatives screening and evaluation.

Task 3.3 – Identify Desalination Opportunities and Rough Screening

Information summarized in Task 3.1 will be used to assess needs in different WPAs in the County and will serve as starting point for identifying how needs can affect locations to be considered for DESAL alternatives. Based on the County's 2015 Desalination Opportunities Summary Report it is expected that at a minimum the following six locations will be a starting point for identifying opportunities:

- Cambria (expand emergency water supply project)
- Diablo Canyon power plant
- Co-locate with South SLO WWTP
- Co-locate with Nipomo Mesa Refinery
- Morro Bay Power Plant site
- Estero Marine Terminal

These locations and any other locations identified by Plan Participants or Stakeholders from outreach conducted under Tasks 2.4 will be used to develop a list of conceptual alternatives. It is expected that alternatives will be developed around WPAs. Up to twelve (12) concept alternatives will be identified including:

- Potential participants and their demands (based on Task 3.1 outcome), including both coastal communities and opportunities for inland exchanges.
- Locations for intake, treatment and outfalls, including potential use of existing outfalls
- Desalination technologies – on shore and offshore

The list of concept alternatives will be presented to plan participants at CWAT meeting #2 using power point presentations and graphical representations of alternatives. Following the definition of the concept alternatives, Consultant team will develop regional mapping based on different technical criteria and information to be able to characterize the identified potential sites and do rough screening in accordance with the criteria developed under Task 3.2. A one-day internal

brainstorming workshop will be held in person with the consultant team (including technical experts) and District staff to develop technical details for the rough screening including:

- Potential suitable locations of permittable intakes based on hydrogeology, cultural resources, and marine resources
- Potential suitable locations for permittable outfalls based on existing outfalls, hydrogeology, and marine resources.
- Potential suitable locations for treatment facilities based on proximity to intakes and outfalls, existing water infrastructure and treatment facilities, suitable power infrastructure and mitigation feasibility.

The findings of this workshop will be documented in meeting notes. The seven technical topic areas for discussion include hydrogeology, environmental permitting, energy access, paleo/cultural considerations, marine biology and mitigation, desal treatment technologies, and desal conveyance. The workshop with the supporting data gathering and analyses will be the basis for the alternatives screening write up in the Feasibility Study. A brief discussion of which projects didn't pass fatal flaw analysis, why, and/or whether there're conditions/triggers for re-evaluating the concept in the future will be included in the Feasibility Study. A discussion of promising technologies that didn't pass initial screening but should be watched for future consideration, will also be included in the Feasibility Study.

In addition to the technical details, consultant will work with District staff to identify conditions under which concept alternatives would be utilized in terms of current and future needs, climatic conditions, regional integration, potential partnerships and governance structures.

The outcome of this internal brainstorming workshop and screening will be presented to the plan participants at a CWAT meeting (Task 2.4.3) to share initial rough screening of concept alternatives and solicit input. Finally, the rough screening results will be presented at a WRAC meeting (Task 2.4.8) that will be recorded and posted on District's website. Public comments will be accepted.

To satisfy requirements of USBR Feasibility study all of the above information will be summarized into Chapter 3 of the Feasibility Study where Consultant will identify the opportunities for desalination in the study area, including:

- Description of all uses for water, or categories of potential uses. Any associated water quality and associated treatment requirements.
- Description of the water markets available to utilize water and method used to assess market.
- Identification of existing and potential users, expected use, peak use, on-site conversion costs if necessary, desire to use water, including letters of intent (if available) and process used to consult with potential users.
- Discussion of considerations (for example: physical or public acceptance) which will prevent implementing a project. Identify methods to eliminate obstacles which will inhibit the use of water.

- Identification of all the water and wastewater agencies that have jurisdiction in the potential service area. Description of any current water reclamation or recycling in the area.
- Description of potential sources of water for project and description and location of the source water facilities including capacities, existing flows, treatment processes, design criteria, plans for future facilities, and quantities of water available for use.
- Summary of water treatment technology currently in use in the study area, and opportunities for development of improved technologies.

Task 3.4 - Description and Evaluation of Viable Alternatives

Chapter 4 of the Feasibility Study is to describe the alternatives including:

- Description of the non-Federal funding condition and the reasonably foreseeable future actions that would be taken if Federal funding were not provided. Consultant will seek input from District on the actions it would take if Federal funding were not provided for the project.
- Statement of the objectives all alternatives are designed to address.
- Description of the proposed project alternatives, including volume of water produced, detailed planning level project cost estimate, annual operation, maintenance, and replacement cost estimates, and life cycle costs presented in cost per acre-ft.
- Description of waste-stream discharge treatment and disposal water quality
- Description of one or more alternative technologies that could be used.

Consultant will develop up to five (5) viable alternatives and describe them to sufficient detail to develop the required information as indicated above. This will include detailing out the following alternative elements:

- Identification of proposed partners with approximate capacity allocation and supply needs met.
- Conditions and circumstances under which partners plan to use supply (e.g. year-round, summer only, or if only when State Water Project is not online during droughts)
- Capacity and size requirements for treatment
- Location of intake and outfalls and if use of any existing facilities is planned
- Infrastructure size, length and approximate alignment required
- A detailed description, including a GIS map, schematic
- Prepare planning level calculations to size the desalination plant, conveyance, and energy usage.
- Prepare planning level (Class 5) cost estimates suitable for alternatives vetting and ranking.
- Approximate new land acquisition needs

- Preliminary qualitative/quantitative scoring of each screening criterion based on criteria defined in Task 3.2.

As part of this subtask, Carollo will prepare supplemental the technical details already developed for the rough screening to conduct the fine screening with the planning level cost estimates (capital, O&M, and life cycled costs), quantification of the water supply benefit (afy), definition of the delivery conditions (baseload, seasonal, droughts), identification of project participants, potential governance structure, anticipated public acceptance and support based on surveys conducted, and implementation timeline (e.g. 10 years, 20 years, or more).

At the completion of Task 3.4 Consultant will conduct an internal workshop (virtual, up to 2 hours) with District and technical team to review scoring and identify any additional impacts or benefits.

Task 3.5 - Economic Analysis

Chapter 5 of the Feasibility Study is to develop an economic analysis. Consultant will prepare, with input from the District, an economic analysis of the Project, including consideration for mitigation related costs, relative to the water supplies alternatives that could be implemented in lieu of the project (i.e., "No Action" alternative). The assessment will identify the degree to which the Project is cost effective, and the economic benefits (including non-economic benefits) that are to be realized after implementation. The section will include the following information for the economic analysis:

- Description of the conditions that exist in the area and projections of the future with, and without, the project. Emphasis in the analysis must be given to the contributions that the plan could make toward alleviation of economic problems and the meeting of future water demand.
- Cost comparison (planning level Class 5) of alternatives that would satisfy the same demand as the proposed project. Alternatives used for comparison must be likely and realistic.
- Description of other water supply alternatives considered including benefits to be gained by each alternative, total project cost, life cycle cost, and corresponding cost of the project water produced expressed in dollars per acre-foot.
- Description of project benefits that may be difficult to quantify will be described as qualitatively as possible and will be considered as part of the justification for the project in conjunction with the comparison of project costs (e.g., drought tolerant water supply and other social or environmental benefits).

Task 3.6 - Selection of Proposed Project(s)

Following development of the viable alternatives, the alternatives will be compared using fine screening criteria developed under Task 3.2 (see Task 3.4). Consultant will present the results of viable alternatives evaluation and fine screening at a CWAT meeting (Task 2.4.3) and at the WRAC (Task 2.4.8) and appropriate stakeholders in accordance with the SEP. Based on input from these meetings, the final list of preferred alternatives will be identified in this subtask.

Chapter 6 of the Feasibility Study is to address selection of proposed project(s). This will include the following:

- A justification of why the proposed project(s) is the selected alternative in terms of meeting objectives, demands, needs, cost effectiveness, and other criteria important to the decision.
- An analysis and, if applicable, an affirmative statement of whether the proposed project would address the following:
    - reduction, postponement, or elimination of development of new water supplies;
    - reduction or elimination of the use of existing diversions from natural watercourses, or withdrawals from aquifers;
    - reduction of demand on existing Federal water supply facilities; and
    - reduction, postponement, or elimination of new or expanded wastewater facilities.

Task 3.7 - Environmental Considerations and Effects

Chapter 7 of the Feasibility Study is to address potential environmental impacts of the proposed project(s). This will include the following:

- Discussion of whether projects will potentially have significant impacts on endangered or threatened species, public health or safety, natural resources, regulated waters of the United States, or cultural resources.
- Discussion whether, and to what extent, the project will have potentially significant environmental effects or will involve unique or undefined environmental risks.
- Description of the status of required Federal, state, tribal, and/or local environmental compliance measures.
- Discussion of any information available for NEPA assessment
- Discussion of how the proposed project will affect water supply and water quality from the perspective of a regional, watershed, aquifer, or river basin condition.
- Discussion of the extent to which the public was involved in the feasibility study, and a summary of comments received, if any.
- Description of the potential effects the project will have on historic properties. Discussion must include potential mitigation measures, the potential for adaptive reuse of facilities, an analysis of historic preservation costs, and the potential for heritage education, if necessary.

Task 3.8 - Legal and Institutional Requirements

Chapter 8 of the Feasibility Study is to address legal and institutional requirements. Consultant will summarize environmental permitting requirements. Consultant shall seek input from the District concerning information on water rights, interagency agreements and County requirements. This section will include the following information:

- Analysis of any water rights issues and the resolution.
- Discussion of legal and institutional requirements, state, and/or local requirements with the potential to affect implementation of the Project.
- Discussion of the need for multi-jurisdictional or interagency agreements.

- Discussion of permitting procedures required.
- Discussion of any unresolved issues associated with the project.
- Identification of current and projected wastewater discharge requirements.
- Description of rights to wastewater discharges.

Consultant will include discussion of governance structures and agreements that would likely be required.

Task 3.9 - Financial Capability

Chapter 9 of the Feasibility Study is to present that the District and Plan Participants are likely to demonstrate financial capability if the Project moves to construction. Accordingly, the following information is required to be included in the feasibility study:

- Proposed schedule for project implementation. Consultant will prepare the proposed schedule.
- Discussion of the District and Participant's financial ability to support the Project, including capital costs and full operation, maintenance, and replacement costs.
- A plan for funding the proposed project's construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement costs, including an analysis of how the participants will pay for construction and annual operation, maintenance, and replacement costs.
- Description of all Federal and non-Federal sources of funding

Task 3.10 - Research Needs

Chapter 10 of the Feasibility Study will include a statement on whether the Project includes basic research needs and the extent that the Project will use proven technologies and components. Consultant will provide the following information if further research is necessary to implement the Project:

- Description of research needs associated with the project.
- Description of the basis for Reclamation participation in the research.
- Identification of the parties who will administer and conduct research.
- Identification of the timeframe necessary for completion of necessary research.

Task 3.11 – Feasibility Study

Consultant will prepare a Draft Feasibility Study (FS) that meets USBR Title XVI Feasibility Study (WTR 11-01) requirements. Admin draft chapters developed in earlier tasks will be compiled and sent to District for review. Comments will be incorporated into a draft FS for review and comment by the DESAL Study participants and will be made available for public review via the District webpage and comment portal, consistent with Stakeholder Engagement Plan. A Final FS will be

completed by incorporating comments as appropriate. The final FS will be submitted to the USBR along with the FS Review checklist/crosswalk.

Task 3 Deliverables:

- Draft and Final screening methodology, table or short memo
- Administrative Drafts of each of Chapters 1-10 for the USBR Feasibility Study for District Staff review.
- Draft Feasibility Study for Public review
- Final Feasibility Study
- Powerpoint presentations summarizing alternatives and screening for use in Task 2 meetings.

Task 3 Assumptions:

- The needs assessment with projected demands and supplies will be based on planning year 2045 (20 year horizon)
- Desal alternatives will be compared for the 2045 planning horizon only.
- Consultant will not gather letters of intent from partner agencies.
- The anticipated public acceptance and support included for the fine screening in Task 3.6 will be based on the findings of one of the surveys conducted as part of Task 2.8.
- Submittals (meeting minutes, powerpoint, report chapters, draft and final report) shall be provided in electronic copy and native filetype (.pdf, .ppt and .docx) and transmitted via email or secure file transfer. All deliverables shall be electronic only and a transmittal log will be maintained.
- Consolidated comments will be provided to Consultant as soon as possible, targeting within 2 weeks of delivery of draft versions of deliverables. Consultant will incorporate and address comments as appropriate in the subsequent versions of deliverables.
- All cost estimates will include simplified estimating factors including estimating contingency factors and an expected accuracy range consistent with prescribed Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE) metrics. All costs are expected to be Class 5 cost estimates based on the conceptual level of detail that will be developed for this project. Consultant has no control over cost or price of labor and material; unknown or latent conditions of existing equipment or structures that may affect operation and maintenance costs; competitive bidding procedures and market conditions; time or quality of performance of third parties; quality, type, management, or direction of operating personnel; and other economic and operational factors that may materially affect the ultimate project cost or schedule. Therefore, the Consultant makes no warranty that the actual project costs, financial aspects, economic feasibility, or schedules will not vary from the Consultant's opinions, analyses, projections, or estimates.

Task 4 – Develop Scope for Phase 2B Desalination Planning Steps

Consultant will develop a scope, schedule, and budget for the subsequent DESAL Plan implementation steps (Phase 2B). This scope could include but is not limited to a detailed analysis

of the preferred projects described in the Feasibility Study, a desalination pilot testing program, engineering design, environmental impact report, permitting support, other supporting technical studies, and stakeholder engagement.

Task 4 Deliverables:

- Scope of Work (Draft and Final).
- Budget and Schedule (Draft and Final).

Task 4 Assumptions:

- Submittals (draft and final scope) shall be provided in electronic copy (.pdf and .docx) and transmitted via email or secure file transfer. All deliverables shall be electronic only.
- Consolidated comments will be provided to Consultant within 2 weeks of delivery of draft versions of deliverables. Consultant will incorporate and address comments as appropriate in the final version of deliverables.

Task 5 – Detailed Planning and Feasibility Study (Future)

If there is funding available, Consultant will complete the tasks negotiated with the District based on the scope and budget prepared as part of Task 4.

Task 5 Deliverables:

- To be determined later

TO: **Water Resources Advisory Committee**

FROM: **Wes Thomson, Supervising Engineer**

DATE: **February 5, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 4: Receive Presentation from County Staff regarding Participating in the next phase of the State Water Project's Delta Conveyance Project Planning**

Recommendations

Informational item only.

Discussion

The objective of the proposed Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) is to protect the ability of the State Water Project (SWP) to deliver water by modernizing the aging SWP infrastructure and providing two complementary methods to divert and convey water south of the Delta. This would be accomplished by constructing two new points of diversion in the north Delta along the Sacramento River with a single tunnel to convey water to existing SWP facilities in the south Delta. Modeling shows that the proposed DCP would protect against reductions of 10-17% in the annual average SWP water deliveries compared to existing conditions. The SWP provides the District with greater geographical diversity of water supplies, and the DCP adds needed safeguards to mitigate for the risk of extended supply interruptions due to known seismic vulnerabilities of the Delta levee system.

In 2024, DWR released updated modeling data with an updated project cost estimate, which was used to develop the latest benefit-cost analysis which concluded the DCP would deliver nearly $38 billion in benefits: *"For every $1 spent, the project will generate $2.20 in benefits, which include critical climate change adaptation, improved resilience to sea level rise and earthquakes that can disrupt deliveries, and improved water quality and reliability for the 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and countless businesses that depend on State Water Project supplies."*

In November 2020, the District authorized $750,000 to participate in the first two years of the initial four-year preliminary planning effort. In 2022, the District authorized $1,296,000 to cover 2023 and 2024. DWR completed the environmental review in December 2023 and identified a preferred project alternative (per CEQA). The funding from 2023/24 was sufficient to cover 2025, and the next funding commitment (if approved by the District Board) would cover the planning, environmental permitting, design and related pre-construction[1] work in 2026 and 2027.

[1] "Pre-construction work" includes efforts to identify geotechnical, hydrogeologic, agronomic, and other field conditions that will guide appropriate construction methods and monitoring programs for final engineering design and construction data collection and field work investigations, including ground-disturbing geotechnical work, water quality and hydrogeologic investigations, agronomic testing, the installation of monitoring equipment, construction test projects, pre-construction design work, and engineering work.

Although DWR has approved the DCP, **the District is not yet being asked to approve or commit to the broader Delta Conveyance Project.** The District anticipates having to consider the long-term participation and funding commitment decision in 2027.

Previous Recommendations & Actions:

On 11/4/2020, the Water Resources Advisory Committee voted 10-7-1 to not recommend that the District BOS participate in the Preliminary Planning and Design Phase for the DCP.

On 11/17/2020, the District Board of Supervisors committed funding for its share of the DCP preliminary planning costs in 2021-2022, and then committed additional funding on 10/18/2022, which covers years 2023-2025.

Financial Considerations

As of this recent benefit-cost analysis, the total project cost is estimated to be $20.1 billion. Accounting for inflation, this is comparable to the preliminary cost assessment from 2020, showing that costs are holding steady.

DWR funds the SWP capital project costs by issuing revenue bonds, which are not taxpayer-funded (not the State of California liabilities). Participating public water agencies will pay for the bonds, and the bonds are the sole obligation of the SWP and are repayable from SWP revenue. As a participating agency, the District's proportional share of the DCP planning and pre-construction costs is $1.86 million for 2026 and 2027 (Attachment 1).

Revenues from the 2024 water transfer could be used to help offset these costs.

Attachments

1. Cost share analysis for SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and its SWP Subcontractors.

References

CEQA Documents (Dec. 2023): DWR's Certified Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR), adopted Findings of Fact (Findings), Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC), Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and filed Notice of Determination (NOD): https://www.deltaconveyanceproject.com/planning-processes/california-environmental-quality-act/final-eir/final-eir-document

Benefit-Cost Analysis of the DCP (5/16/2024): https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Public-Information/DCP-Benefit-Cost-Analysis-2024-05-13__ADA.pdf

Updated DCP Cost Estimate (5/14/2024): https://www.dcdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2023-Bethany-Total-Project-Cost-Estimate.pdf

The Economy of the State Water Project (12/14/2023): https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/News/Files/FINAL-12-14-2023---The-Economy-of-the-State-Water-Project.pdf

DCP Round 3 Planning Cost (ESTIMATE)
SLO County FCWCD
11/28/2024, WT

	CY 2026/27
Total District Cost Share =	***$ 1,860,000***
District "Table A" Contract (AFY) >>	25,000
	$ 37 *$/AF per Year*

Annual Cost - 2026 & 2027	
CY 2026	CY 2027
$930,000	$930,000
50%	*50%*

SUBCONTRACTOR	Water Service Contract	Drought Buffer Contract	Total Contract	Subscription Percentage	Est'd Cost of DCP Round 3 Planning	Commitment Year (2026)	Commitment Year (2027)
CSA 16 (Shandon)	100	0	**100**	0.40%	$ 7,440	**$ 3,720**	**$ 3,720**
City of Morro Bay	1,313	2,290	**3,603**	14.41%	$ 268,063	**$ 134,032**	**$ 134,032**
CMC	400	400	**800**	3.20%	$ 59,520	**$ 29,760**	**$ 29,760**
County Ops Center	425	425	**850**	3.40%	$ 63,240	**$ 31,620**	**$ 31,620**
Cuesta College	200	200	**400**	1.60%	$ 29,760	**$ 14,880**	**$ 14,880**
City of Pismo Beach	1,240	1,240	**2,480**	9.92%	$ 184,512	**$ 92,256**	**$ 92,256**
Oceano CSD	750	750	**1,500**	6.00%	$ 111,600	**$ 55,800**	**$ 55,800**
San Miguelito MWC	275	275	**550**	2.20%	$ 40,920	**$ 20,460**	**$ 20,460**
Avila Beach CSD	100	100	**200**	0.80%	$ 14,880	**$ 7,440**	**$ 7,440**
Avila Valley MWC	20	60	**80**	0.32%	$ 5,952	**$ 2,976**	**$ 2,976**
San Luis Coastal USD	7	7	**14**	0.06%	$ 1,042	**$ 521**	**$ 521**
Subcontractor Total >>	4,830	5,747	**10,577**	42.3%	$ 786,929	**$ 393,464**	**$ 393,464**
District's Unsubscribed Total >>			14,423	57.7%	$ 1,073,071	**$ 536,536**	**$ 536,536**
Total Due to DWR >>					$ 1,860,000	**$ 930,000**	**$ 930,000**

TO: **Water Resources Advisory Committee**

FROM: **Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer**

DATE: **February 5, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 5: Ongoing Updates**

Recommendation
Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

Discussion

a) Rain & Reservoir Report. See attached report.

b) Drought Updates.

- Staff is monitoring current rainfall conditions. A rainfall map of the state is provided along with the most up to date Drought Monitor.
- As part of SB-552, counties are required to have a standing Drought Task Force. Ours is led by the County of SLO Office of Emergency Services (OES).
    - OES last went to the Board on April 18, 2023; the drought declaration was terminated: https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/15621

c) Groundwater Management Efforts

On December 18, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) 2019 Prioritization[1] that designates each groundwater basin and subbasin (collectively, basins) as high, medium, low or very low priority. Groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) are required to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for each high or medium priority basin.

Basin Updates:

Basin	Update:
Los Osos Basin	**Los Osos Area Subbasin** (adjudicated area) is designated as a very low priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. SGMA does not apply to the portions of Los Osos Basin that are adjudicated provided that certain requirements are met (Water Code §10720.8). The fringe areas of the Los Osos Area Subbasin are not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR very-low prioritization. The Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) oversees implementation of the Los Osos Basin Plan for the area. **January 2025 Basin Management Committee (BMC) Update** • At its regularly scheduled January 15th, 2025 BMC Meeting:

[1] https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization

	• The Board appointed BMC officers for CY 2025. • The Board approved the proposals for BMC consulting services for CY 2025. • The Board approved the BMC Budget Reserve Target Policy and directed staff to provide a report of 2024 leftover funds and how it should be allocated. The Board provided Staff direction to incorporate this policy into the BMC rules and regulations. • The next regular BMC Meeting is scheduled for February 19th, 2025. **November/December 2024 Basin Management Committee (BMC) Update** • The regularly scheduled November 20th, 2024 BMC was cancelled. • At its December 3rd, 2024 Special Meeting: • The Board approved the proposed Calendar Year 2025 BMC Budget with two modifications: 1. For Line Item 1: The Board approved the presented budget with the modification that the expense of the individual tasks as outlined in the proposal for Executive Director services are reported on invoices. 2. For Line Item 2: The Board approved the presented budget with modification of the legal fees from $20,000 to $5,000, with Staff direction to make documents available to the public and members of the BMC which indicate how conflict would be handled [should RWG provide legal counsel services to both the BMC and LOCSD]. The Board provided Staff direction to bring back this budget line item in 2025 to determine the eventual appropriate amount of the 2025 budget for legal counsel. • The Board received information on the Updated SLOCFCWCD SWP Policies and Criteria for Use and provided direction for Staff to review and bring back at a future meeting. • The regularly scheduled BMC Meeting for December 18th, 2024 was cancelled. Meeting notices, minutes, and recordings are available on the BMC's website: https://www.losososbmc.org/.
Atascadero Basin	**Atascadero Basin** is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Executive Committee (EC) elected to develop, and submit to DWR, a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by January 31, 2022. The GSP was submitted on January 30, 2022. • The EC met on December 18, 2024, and passed a resolution authorizing Atascadero Mutual Water Company to enter into an agreement with the consulting team of GEI Consultants, GSI Water Solutions, and Confluence Engineering to prepare the annual report for Water Year ending September 30, 2024.

	• The next EC meetings are scheduled for February 12, 2025 and March 19, 2025. For more information or to view meeting material, visit: www.AtascaderoBasin.com
Santa Maria Basin	**Santa Maria Area Subbasin** (adjudicated area) is designated as a very low priority basin. The adjudicated areas of the Santa Maria Basin are managed by the Northern Cities Management Area, Nipomo Mesa Management Area, and Santa Maria Valley Management Area. The County is implementing wellhead improvements at coastal monitoring well cluster 11N/36W-12C (Dunes Well 12C). The main purpose of the work is to raise the wellhead, which is covered by dune sand, and to re-equip the well with new, dedicated pumps for water quality monitoring. The Santa Maria Basin Fringe Areas – County of San Luis Obispo GSA is the GSA for the non-adjudicated fringe areas of the basin within the County. This subbasin consists of an adjudicated area and other non-adjudicated fringe areas. However, only the priority of the non-adjudicated fringe areas was assessed, which include the Ziegler Canyon Fringe Area in San Luis Obispo County and other fringe areas in Santa Barbara County. **Arroyo Grande Subbasin** is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the County and City of Arroyo Grande as GSAs in the basin have prepared a GSP. DWR conducted Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys over the Arroyo Grande Subbasin in November 2023. All data collected as a part of the Statewide AEM Surveys will be made publicly available through the California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal. For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/santamariabasin or www.slocounty.ca.gov/agbasin

Paso Basin	**Paso Basin** is designated as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. The Paso Basin – County of San Luis Obispo GSA, City of Paso Robles GSA, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston WD GSA, San Miguel CSD GSA, and Shandon San Juan WD GSA, entered into an agreement to develop and implement a single GSP for the basin and coordinate via the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC).
	
	• The PBCC met on January 22, 2025, regarding the following items:
	  ○ Update on Grant-Funded Projects
	  ○ Update on Water Year 2024 Annual Report Development
	  ○ Update on Governance JPA Agreement
	  ○ File the GSP 5-Year Periodic Evaluation
	  ○ Update on FY 2024-2025 Budget
	• The next Regular PBCC meeting is scheduled for **March 26, 2025**.
	
	For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/pasobasin

Cuyama Basin	**Cuyama Basin** is designated as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. The Cuyama Basin GSA was formed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and is an independent agency governed by a Board of Directors for Cuyama Basin. An amended GSP was submitted to DWR on July 20, 2022 and on March 3, 2023, DWR issued a recommended "approval" of the GSP. The final approval with proposed corrective actions was received on May 25, 2023.
	
	• The Cuyama Basin GSA met on **January 15, 2025**, regarding the following items:
	  ○ Election of Officers
	  ○ Report from Auditors on Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit
	  ○ Variance Findings and Direction on Setting Final CMA Groundwater Allocations for 2025-2029
	  ○ GSA Project Prioritization/Schedule
	  ○ Stormwater Capture Surface Rights Analysis
	• The next regular Cuyama Basin GSA Advisory and Board meetings are scheduled for **February 27, 2025,** and **March 5, 2025**, respectively.
	
	For more information, please visit: www.cuyamabasin.org

San Luis Obispo Basin	**San Luis Obispo Basin** is designated as a high priority basin. The County and City of San Luis Obispo GSAs, in coordination with other basin stakeholders, formed the Groundwater Sustainability Commission (GSC) to develop and submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the SLO Basin to DWR by the January 31, 2022 statutory deadline. The GSP was approved by DWR on April 27, 2023, and per the GSC MOA, the GSC terminated on March 18, 2024. Moving forward, the County GSA will work with local stakeholders to receive relevant feedback on the implementation of the GSP. • On April 27, 2023, DWR issued an "approved" determination for the SLO Valley GSP. DWR recommended four corrective actions and the County GSA and City GSA will be addressing these ahead of the next GSP periodic evaluation due January 26, 2027. • **No meetings are currently scheduled at this time**. For more information, please visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/slobasin
Adelaida Area	The **Adelaida Area** is not a DWR designated groundwater basin; however, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) has been coordinating with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on a hydrogeologic study to increase understanding of the groundwater conditions, availability, and sustainability in the fractured rock area. Since beginning the Adelaida Area Hydrogeological Study in 2019, USGS has completed tasks related to compiling and reviewing existing hydrologic and geologic data, collecting new groundwater and surface-water data, and conducted outreach and coordination. On November 12, 2024, the Board approved a Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for completion of the study, an effort which entails USGS integrating and analyzing the

	hydrogeologic system using data gathered in the initial study tasks, producing an interpretive report, and continuing outreach and coordination. For more information, please visit: • https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy • https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ca-water/science/evaluation-groundwater-resources-adelaida-area-san-luis-obispo-county?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

WRAC members and interested stakeholders are encouraged to join the various mailing lists for groundwater basin management efforts:

San Luis Obispo County's SGMA Website and Mailing List Sign-up
http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/sgma

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Website and Mailing List
https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management

d) County Flood Control Zones

The San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District is a resource to help individuals and communities in San Luis Obispo County identify and address flooding problems with the purpose "*to provide for control, disposition and distribution of the flood and storm waters of the district and of streams flowing into the district…*"

Updates by Zone:

Zone	Update:
Zone 1/1A Arroyo Grande Creek Channel	**Flood Control Zone 1/1A** includes the maintenance and operations of the Arroyo Grande and Los Berros Channels to provide flood protection within the Zone located near the City of Arroyo Grande and the community of Oceano. The Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee last met on December 10th, 2024. County staff provided key updates to the Committee on Phases 2A and 2B of the Levee Rehabilitation Project, the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project, the Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Property Buyout Option, annual maintenance, and other flood planning efforts. The staff report for these topics can be viewed here: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Flood-Control-Zones/Zone-1-1A-Arroyo-Grande-Creek-Channel/Meeting-Calendar.aspx The next meeting of the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, at 3:00 PM. Meetings are held at the Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street, Oceano, CA. For more information, please visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1A

Zone 9 **San Luis Obispo Creek**	**Flood Control Zone 9** provides flood control data and planning for the area encompassing San Luis Obispo Creek and its tributaries. The Zone 9 Advisory Committee met on December 11th and discussed the Waterway Management Plan Update and stream gage opportunities, among other things. The next meeting of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 9, 2024, at the City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Conference Room 1, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA. For more information, please visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

The District and State completed the Prop. 1, Round 2 Grant Agreement in December 2023. District Staff is currently working with awarded agencies for grant startup.

To be notified of the upcoming meetings or any project-related documents, visit www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm.

A summary of open and pending IRWM grants is below:

Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Mgmt Grant (2011)	**$2,797,000**	**Complete**	
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3a Project	$2,797,000	Complete	Flood Control District
Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2011)	**$10,401,000**	**Complete**	
Los Osos Wastewater Project	$5,945,444	Complete	County of SLO
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3c Project	$2,200,000	Complete	Flood Control District
Nipomo Supplemental Water Project	$2,200,000	Complete	Nipomo CSD
Grant Administration	$55,556	Complete	Flood Control District
Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement 2017	**$877,563**	**Complete**	
FCD Funding Administration	$20,700	Complete	Flood Control District
Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment	$67,738	Complete	Flood Control District
Water Resource Reliability Program, Phase 2	$177,750	Complete	Oceano CSD
Turnout Pump Design & Water Master Plan Update	$177,750	Complete	City of Grover Beach
WRRF Value Engineering at 60% Design	$78,125	Complete	City of SLO
Reservoir Exp. Project & Water Master Plan Update	$177,750	Complete	San Simeon CSD
Wastewater Plant Upgrade & Recharge Basin Studies	$177,750	Complete	San Miguel CSD
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 1	**$2,782,130**	**Complete**	
Grant Administration	$155,000	Complete	Flood Control District
One Water SLO, MBR/UV Component	$1,314,530	Complete	City of SLO
8th Street Well Construction	$238,100	Complete	Los Osos CSD
Supplemental Water Project, Final Phase	$800,000	Complete	Nipomo CSD
Water Resource Reliability Program, Projects 1-1, 1-9	$274,500	Complete	Oceano CSD

Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 2	**$3,782,129**	**In Progress**	
Grant Administration	$132,374	In Progress	Flood Control District
Indirect Potable Reuse	$1,200,000	In Progress	City of Morro Bay
Central Coast Blue, Phase 1	$1,000,000	TBD	City of Pismo Beach
Master Water Report Information System	$549,755	In Progress	Flood Control District
Water Resource Reliability Projects	$600,000	In Progress	Oceano CSD
Water Reliability Projects	$300,000	In Progress	San Miguel CSD

For questions, contact:
Brendan Clark, IRWM Program Manager
Email: bclark@co.slo.ca.us
Phone: (805) 788-2316

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

February 2025 Update:
County staff and the consultant team are planning the expansion of the Master Water Report Data and Information Management System (DIMS) to the rest of the County. We anticipate the next WRAC update to be mid-2025.

Background:
On June 7, 2022, the District Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Carollo Engineers, Inc. to develop the Master Water Report Update and Information System. Board Item: https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/14655

For more information, please visit the project website: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Current-Public-Works-Projects/Master-Water-Report-and-Data-Information-System.aspx

g) State Water Project (SWP)

- **Current SWP delivery allocation** – For calendar year 2025, the SWP allocation is at 20%, which is 5,000 AF (i.e., the 20% applies to the District's 25,000 AF "Table A" contract).

- **State Water Subcontractors Advisory Committee (SWSAC):** The next SWSAC meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. For more information, please visit the SWSAC website: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/State-Water-Project-and-Subcontractors-Advisory-Co.aspx

- **Upcoming SWP Policy Updates (early 2025) –** Staff anticipates returning to the WRAC in March.

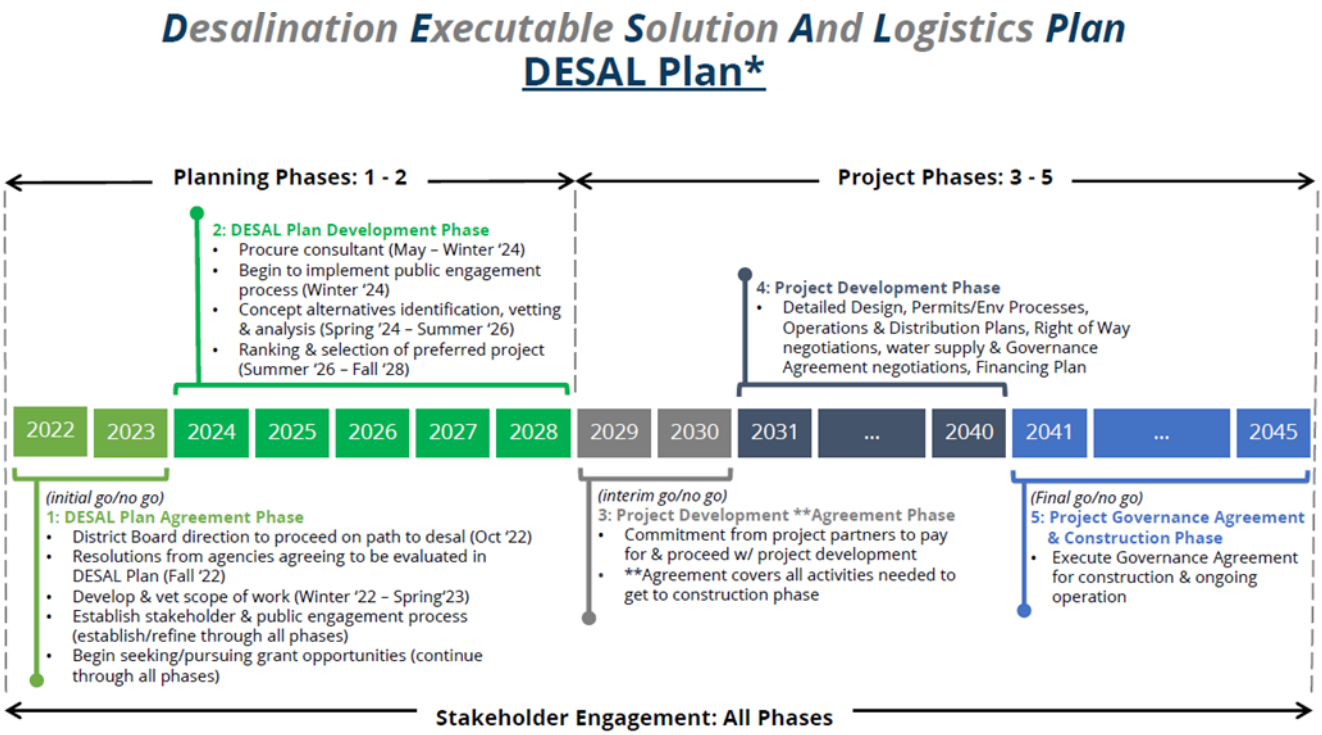
h) Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)

Desalination, the process of removing salt from saltwater to make it freshwater, can offer a safe, long term, resilient water supply. The District, in collaboration with partner agencies, is beginning a

planning effort to explore a potential regional desalination project in San Luis Obispo County. The District has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to support development of the DESAL Plan and, on January 14, 2025, the District Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Carollo Engineers to start this desalination planning work.

One of the first consultant tasks is to develop a stakeholder engagement plan that outlines the periodic meetings and communication tools with the District and involved and interested parties, including the WRAC, to present progress and gather input on the project at key milestones. For details and to view the consultant contract and scope of work, please see the January 14 Board Agenda Item: https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/18558.

More information, including a graphic laying out the potential timeline and phase descriptions, is available on the County's DESAL Plan webpage at https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/DESAL.



i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

The County Department of Planning & Building's website for the water conservation programs in Nipomo Mesa, Paso Basin, and Los Osos: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Countywide-Water-Conservation-Program.aspx

Current Los Osos Happenings (For February 2025 WRAC Meeting)

In order for the Community of Los Osos to develop, two programs need to be running: the Allocation Program and the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan (LOHCP). While there are 25 allocations available to the community of Los Osos in 2025 (19 allocations available within the Community Sewer Service Area, 6 allocations available outside the Community Sewer Service Area), there have been

delays with implementation of the LOHCP. This ultimately means Los Osos development is on hold until LOHCP Mitigation Credits are available. Those who own vacant lots can work towards obtaining a Title 19 Retrofit-to-Build certificate (available at title-19-logwb-retrofit-to-build-requirement_1230_2024-update). This certificate does not expire and is tied to the parcel it is applied for. This certificate is not a requirement to apply, but is a requirement prior to permit issuance.

Additionally, the Waitlist to Build (available to vacant parcels within the Community Sewer Service Area) closed at the end of November. There are 361 parcels on the single-family waitlist and 180 requested units on the multi-family waitlist.

Timelines for permitting and additional information can be found on the Planning and Building website at Los Osos.

Nipomo Mesa

Offset Programs. The County is continuing to process building permits subject to the County's water offset fees at a 1:1 ratio to fund the Cash for Grass, Washer Rebate, and Plumbing Retrofit Programs, available for both residential and commercial uses. Funding is currently limited for the rebate programs and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants in the Nipomo CSD service area may pay the CSD's supplemental water fee to meet the County's offset requirement. For more information, visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Programs-and-Services/Nipomo-Mesa-Water-Conservation-Area-(NMWCA).aspx

Paso Basin

Offset Programs. In the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, there are funds available for the Cash for Grass, Washer Rebate, and Plumbing Retrofit Programs, available to both residential and commercial property owners. A well meter is required for compliance with Title 19.

The Ag Offset ordinance requires property owners to verify that new and expanded irrigated commercial crops are not increasing their existing water use on-site, based on a 5 year look back period, with a 5 AFY exemption for sites that do not have existing irrigation and are outside of the area of severe decline. For more information, visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Programs-and-Services/Paso-Robles-Groundwater-Basin-(PRGWB).aspx.

Los Osos

Guide to Planning Information for Development in Los Osos. This website is currently the best resource for FAQ concerning what type of development is currently allowed within Los Osos: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/grid-items/community-engagement/communities-villages/los-osos

Offset Requirement.

The retrofit-to-build program within the community of Los Osos is allowing property owners to retrofit washers and/or hot water recirculation pumps within and outside the prohibition zone to acquire retrofit credits to offset water use for new development at a 2:1 ratio. Program information is available at: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-

Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Programs-and-Services/Los-Osos-Groundwater-Basin-Plumbing-Retrofit-to-Bu.aspx

Los Osos Community Plan :
On June 13, 2024, the California Coastal Commission issued suggested modifications to the Estero Area Plan and the proposed Los Osos Community Plan, including a maximum residential growth rate of 1% for the sustainable buildout of Los Osos if groundwater production remains below sustainable yield, based on the best available science. On October 29th, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to accept the California Coastal Commission's suggested modifications.

The Los Osos Community Plan (LOCP) can be found here. The LOCP is part of the County's General Plan and is not included in the County's Local Coastal Program. The LOCP provides a greater level of specificity for the community of Los Osos.

Excerpt from Chapter 1.1 Purpose of the LOCP:

"The purpose of this [LOCP] is to establish a vision for the future of Los Osos that will guide growth and development over the next 20 years…This plan is intended to be the community's plan…Continued community involvement is needed to achieve the vision."

Los Osos Growth Rate Implementation through County Code Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance:

On October 29th, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors approved amendments to County Code Title 26 County Growth Management Ordinance available here and including the following:

- A conservative growth management strategy consistent with California Coastal Commission's suggested modifications (see below),
- New Los Osos Waitlist to Build regulations,
- Streamlined ordinance administration procedures, including transitioning tracking the annual growth from a fiscal year basis to a calendar year to better align with annual resource data.

County staff returned to the Board of Supervisors on December 10th, 2024, with a resolution to approve the maximum annual allocation for calendar year 2025 for Los Osos and other communities in the unincorporated county. County staff (i.e., the Department of Planning & Building) coordinated with the Los Osos Basin Management Committee staff on the below approach.

The Los Osos Basin Management Committee (LOBMC) published the Los Osos Basin Plan in 2015 and produces annual monitoring reports of the Los Osos Groundwater Basin (Basin). The Basin Plan created a process to establish the sustainable yield estimate for the Basin based on infrastructure and pumping distribution combinations and aims to maintain groundwater production at 80 percent or less of the sustainable yield estimate to provide a conservative buffer to account for uncertainty in the groundwater modeling assumptions. The sustainable yield estimate is the maximum amount of water that may be extracted from the Basin in a given year (a) using available infrastructure, (b) without causing seawater to intrude further than the current extent, and (c) without active wells producing water with a chloride concentration exceeding 250 mg/L (BMC Annual Report, 2022). This method for determining the sustainable yield estimate was first implemented in calendar year 2022.

The Basin Yield Metric (BYM) is another metric used to annually monitor basin conditions and compares annual groundwater production with the sustainable yield estimate in a given year. The BYM is the primary indicator of sustainable pumping volume.

The amendments to the Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance as approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 29th, 2024, and as it relates to Los Osos, include the following:

- Requirement of annual review of the best available groundwater monitoring data;
- Establishment of an annual growth rate that may not exceed a rate of 1%, including accessory dwelling units and deed-restricted affordable dwelling units;
- Utilization of the Los Osos Waitlist to Build to determine the priority of allocation within the community sewer service area;
- Coordination with the Los Osos Basin Management Committee on an annual basis, in accord with the annual review of the growth rate;
- Establishment of a metered approach to allowable development based on recent available groundwater data where,
    - Remainder of Calendar Year 2024: Growth rate of 0%,
    - Calendar Year 2025: Annual growth rate of 0.4%,
    - Calendar Year 2026: Annual growth rate of 0.6%,
    - Calendar Year 2027: Annual growth rate of 0.8%,
    - Calendar Year 2028 and beyond: Annual growth rate shall be established based on a 5-year rolling average of the BYM (see Table 1).

Table 1. Annual Growth Rate based on Basin Yield Metric.

5-Year Rolling Average of Annual Basin Yield Metric	Annual Growth Rate
≤80%	1.0%
>80% to 81%	0.8%
>81% to 82%	0.6%
>82% to 83%	0.4%
>83% to 84%	0.2%
>84%	0.0%

The purpose of a 5-year rolling average of the BYM as the basis for determining the annual growth rate is to provide a safeguard against any irregularities in annual basin conditions that could misrepresent the Basin sustainable yield (for example, high precipitation values). The BYM average for years 2019 through 2024 (despite the sustainable yield methodology change in 2022) reports a 5-year average below 80% (LOBMC Annual Reports, 2019-2023) and could allow for a 1.0% growth rate in Calendar Year 2025. However, it is recommended that a growth rate of 0.4% be applied in Calendar Year 2025, 0.6% in Calendar Year 2026, and 0.8% in Calendar Year 2027 until Calendar 2028 when a 5-year dataset of the BYM, based on the updated sustainable yield methodology, is available.

Please contact waterprograms@co.slo.ca.us for further information or questions.

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Rainfall and Reservoir Report

Generated: 1/29/2025

Notes

All data from automated sensors and preliminary (subject to verification and/or revision).
All rainfall data in inches.
* denotes data not available at time of generation.

1 SLO County FCWCD defines each Water Year from July 1 to the subsequent June 30.
2 Rainfall data for month of generation is partial (only to time of generation).
3 Water Planning Areas as defined by 2018 County IWRM update.
4 Per County Standard Drawing H-1, calculated over 42 year period from WY1955-56 to 1997-98.
5 Elevation datums vary; refer to operating agency materials for detail.
6 Salinas Reservoir was resurveyed in April 2024, with max storage decreasing from 23,843 in 1991. In May 2024, the elevation datum was updated along with the storage-elevation curve. 2023 values use previous datum and storage-elevation
7 n/a (no elevation) is reported for Twitchell when the pool elevation is below 535 feet.

SLO County FCWCD Rain Stations

WPA[3]	Station	Water Year 2024-25[1,2]														Average Annual[4]	Water Year 2023-24	
		July 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Year-to-Date	% of Year Avg		% of Year Avg	Total
North County	Hog Canyon	0	0	0.02	0	1.45	0.44	0.09						2.0	13%	16	104%	16.7
	Rocky Butte	0	0	0	0	8.39	1.97	0.28						10.6	27%	40	181%	72.3
	Shandon	0	0	0	0	1.37	0.29	0.19						1.9	15%	12	105%	12.7
	Templeton	0	0.01	0	0	1.82	0.74	0.33						2.9	16%	18	99%	17.8
	Creston	0	0	0	0	1.82	*	*						1.8	15%	12	135%	16.2
	Atascadero	0	0	0.20	0	1.53	0.75	0.24						2.7	15%	18	86%	15.6
	Santa Margarita	0	0	0.04	0	2.34	0.88	0.52						3.8	16%	24	103%	24.8
	Salinas Dam	0	0	0.08	0	0	2.16	1.24						3.5	16%	22	129%	28.5
San Simeon / Cambria	San Simeon	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.08	1.57	1.16	0.32						3.3	14%	24	95%	22.8
	Santa Rosa at Main	0	0.01	0.05	0.05	2.92	1.27	0.21						4.5	21%	22	114%	25.1
	Hwy 46 W 7 Mile	0.02	0.01	0.11	0	3.02	1.31	0.18						4.7	16%	30	80%	23.9
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	Morro Toro	0	0	0.04	0	3.70	1.62	0.23						5.6	20%	28	118%	33.2
	Canet	0	0.01	0.04	0.07	2.16	1.17	0.16						3.6	16%	22	96%	21.1
	Camp San Luis	0	0	0	0.08	2.05	1.53	0.40						4.1	20%	20	127%	25.5
	Los Osos Landfill	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.10	1.81	1.41	0.24						3.7	21%	18	120%	21.6
	Davis Peak	0	0	0	0	3.19	1.07	0.39						4.7	26%	18	140%	25.2
SLO / South County	South Portal	0	0.03	0.08	0.02	3.68	1.92	0.60						6.3	23%	28	116%	32.4
	SLO Reservoir	0	0	0.03	0.08	2.52	1.39	0.09						4.1	17%	24	102%	24.4
	Gas Company	0	0	0.01	0	2.64	1.37	0.21						4.2	19%	22	99%	21.8
	Upper Lopez	0	0	0	0	3.82	0.87	0.43						5.1	17%	30	89%	26.7
	Lopez Rec Area	0	0	0	0	3.75	0.91	0.64						5.3	24%	22	107%	23.4
	Lopez Dam	0	0	0.01	0.02	3.91	1.19	0.72						5.9	29%	20	145%	28.9
	Lopez WTP	0	0	0.02	0.02	3.00	0.82	0.30						4.2	21%	20	105%	20.9
	Arroyo Grande	0	0	0	0	2.43	0.84	0.28						3.6	20%	18	116%	20.9
	Los Berros	0	0	0.16	0.04	2.79	1.19	0.35						4.5	23%	20	136%	27.2
	Oceano	0	0.01	0.02	0.04	2.80	0.97	0.20						4.0	25%	16	109%	17.4
	Nipomo East	0	0	0	0	3.15	0.65	0.12						3.9	22%	18	135%	24.3
	Nipomo South	0	0.01	0.01	0	2.20	0.64	0.18						3.0	22%	14	131%	18.4

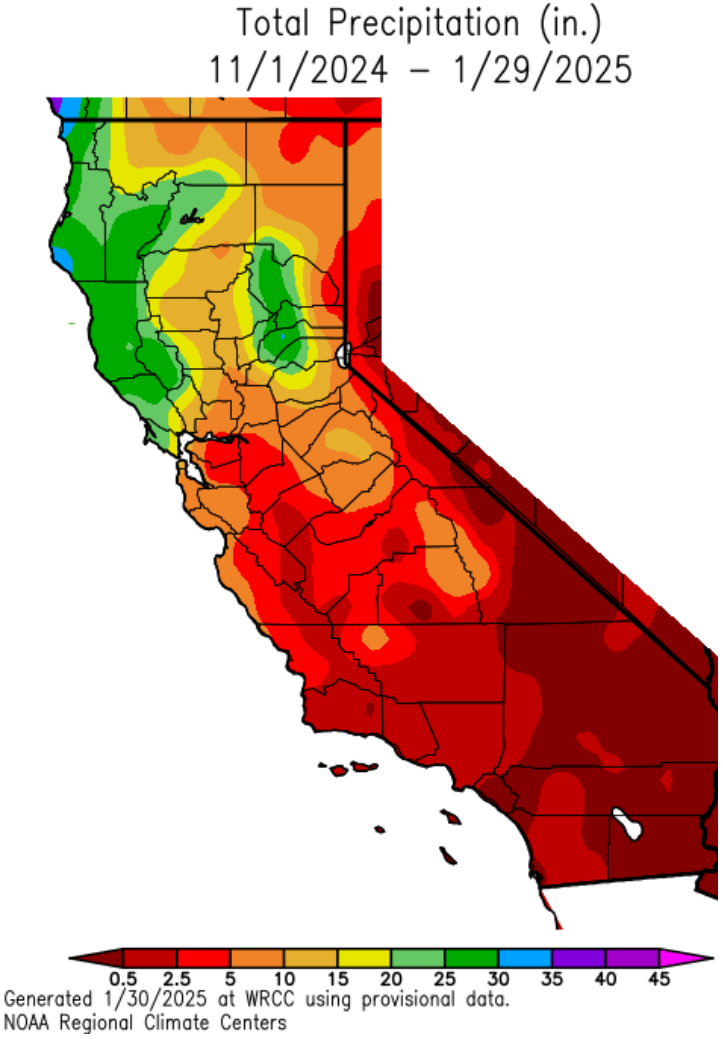
Non-County Rain Stations

WPA[3]	Operating Agency	Station	Water Year 2024-25[1,2]														Average Annual	Water Year 2023-24	
			July 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Year-to-Date	% of Year Avg		% of Year Avg	Total
North County	City of Paso Robles	Paso Robles	0	0	0	0	1.97	0.73	0.22						2.9	21%	14	151%	21.2
	Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Atascadero MWC	0	0	0.06	0	2.04	1.13	*						3.2	18%	17.5	131%	22.9
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	City of SLO	Whale Rock	0	0	0	0	2.57	1.19	*						3.8	24%	16	119%	19.0

Reservoirs

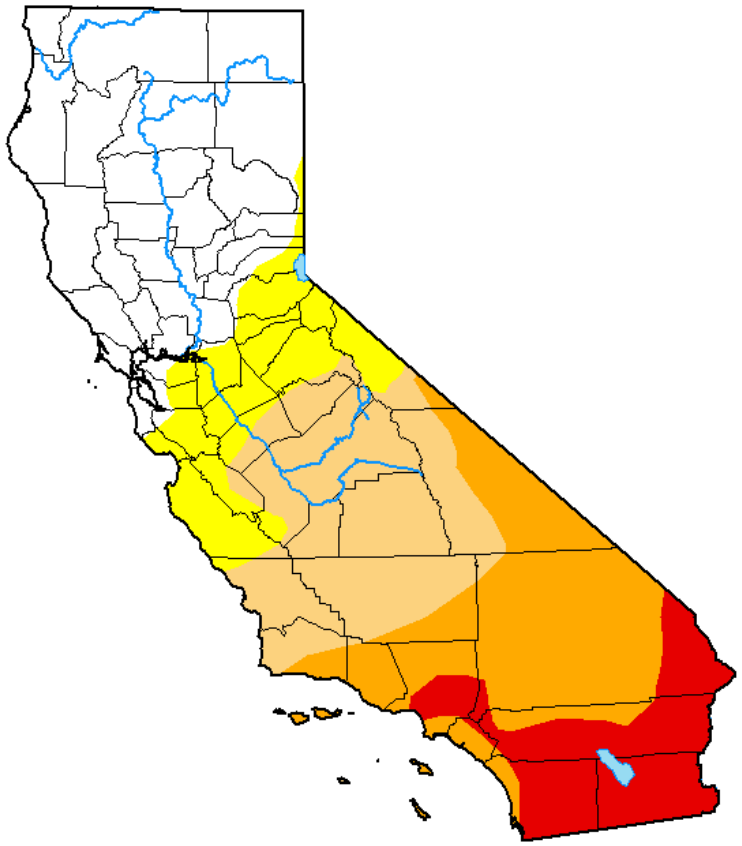
WPA[3]	Operating Agency	Facility	Spillway Elevation[5]	Data Date	Pool Elevation[5]	Capacity	Storage [acre-feet]	Max Storage [acre-feet]
North County	Monterey County Water Agency	Nacimiento Reservoir	787.75 - 800.00 (gate-dependent)	1/29/2025	762.40	52%	196,380	*
				2/1/2024	771.50	62%	234,025	
		San Antonio Reservoir	780.00	1/29/2025	759.20	69%	232,800	*
				2/1/2024	756.10	66%	219,960	
	SLO County FCWCD	Salinas Reservoir / Santa Margarita Lake[6]	1303.59	1/29/2025	1299.17	87%	19,302	22,320
				2/1/2024	1298.01	92%	21,891	
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	City of SLO	Whale Rock Reservoir	216.00	1/29/2025	209.00	90%	35,012	38,967
				2/1/2024	211.90	94%	36,619	
SLO / South County	SLO County FCWCD	Lopez Reservoir	522.66	1/29/2025	517.70	91%	45,100	*
				2/1/2024	521.15	97%	48,066	
Cuyama	Santa Barbara County FCD	Twitchell Reservoir[7]	651.50	1/29/2025	n/a	n/a	n/a	194,971
				2/1/2024	539.47	1%	2,514	

Statewide Drought and Precipitation



U.S. Drought Monitor

California



January 28, 2025

(Released Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	33.22	66.78	54.31	32.86	11.88	0.00
Last Week *01-21-2025*	33.22	66.78	39.39	32.86	11.90	0.00
3 Months Ago *10-29-2024*	25.37	74.63	12.26	4.30	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-07-2025*	39.11	60.89	35.93	10.43	1.06	0.00
Start of Water Year *10-01-2024*	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago *01-30-2024*	90.53	9.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

TO: **Water Resources Advisory Committee**

FROM: **Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer**

DATE: **February 5, 2025**

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #6: Future Agenda Items**

2025 Anticipated topics:

- State Water Policy Update
- Master Water Report
- Regional Water Infrastructure Resiliency Plan Updates
- DESAL
- Salinas Dam
- Update discussions from agencies/other member groups

Areas of Interest – Future

- Central Coast Water Board:
    - Phase II MS4 Permit Updates
    - Stormwater Capture
- Considering Recreational use of water resources as part of the District's policies.
- Update on policies and studies related to groundwater in fractured rock
- Update on Salinas Reservoir Dam Project
- Well permitting regulation as a tool for groundwater management
- Nacimiento and San Antonio Lake Tunnel Project
- Biosolids Updates (i.e. barriers, regulations, etc.)
- City and/or Sector panel discussions
- Nursery & landscape panel discussion

Excerpt from WRAC By-laws dated January 23, 2024

Administration: The Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, shall prepare the agenda for each regular and special meeting of the WRAC. Any WRAC member may contact the Secretary and Chairperson and request that an item be placed on the regular meeting agenda no later than 4:30 p.m. twelve calendar days prior to the applicable meeting date. Such a request must be also submitted in writing either at the time of communication with the Secretary or delivered to the County Public Works Department within the next working day. Consideration of the request by the Secretary, in cooperation with the Chairperson, for inclusion on the agenda will be limited to include review for consistency with District and Board of Supervisors priorities, the mandate of the WRAC, and available time.