

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

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

Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
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 February 5, 2025 WRAC Meeting Minutes	1:35pm
3.	Receive Presentation from WSP on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Provide Feedback	1:40pm
4.	Receive Update from County Staff Regarding State Water Policies	2:10pm
5.	Election for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson	2:30pm
6.	Consider Submitting the 2024 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors	2:40pm
7.	Ongoing Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Rain &amp; Reservoir Report</li><li>b. Drought Updates</li><li>c. Groundwater Basin Management Efforts</li><li>d. Flood Control Zones</li><li>e. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)</li><li>f. Master Water Report (MWR) Update</li><li>g. State Water Project (SWP)</li><li>h. Desalination</li><li>i. Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances</li><li>j. Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities &amp; Information</li></ul>	2:50pm
8.	Future Agenda Items	3:00pm
9.	Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda	3:05pm
10.	Adjourn Meeting	3:10pm

This agenda packet and attachments are available online at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/wrac](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/wrac)

Next Regular Meeting:        April 2, 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](mailto: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*

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

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## 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 **February 5, 2025** 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](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 19. Quorum met.

### 2) **Approval of November 6, 2024, WRAC Meeting Minutes**

*Item start time ~ 00:05:00*

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

T. Walters moves to approve the November 6, 2024 meeting minutes, as presented.

C. Mulholland seconds the motion.

Motion carries 19-0-0-1.

### 3) **Receive Update from County Staff on the DESAL Plan**

*Item start time ~ 00:05:27*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and C. Howard provides a presentation with updates on the DESAL Plan.

D. Chipping asks if the project is being funded by Federal or State funds.

C. Howard Responds.

Z. Landrum asks for clarification on the consultant selection process and if local references were used. C. Howard Responds.

T. Walters asks if there will be future grant opportunities once Phase 2B is reached in the project. C. Howard responds.

P. Brown asks if other alternatives for new water sources have been identified or will be considered. C. Howard responds.

C. Mulholland asks if data gaps for the environmental sector will be addressed through the planning process. C. Howard responds.

E. Greening asks if there are options being explored to counter pumping costs to pump water over the Santa Lucia Mountains with entities that would be participating financially. C. Howard responds.

J. Marx asks why the Chumash National Marine Sanctuary has not been included as part of the plan and what environmental and regulatory criteria is being considered for the project. C. Howard responds.

M. Van Ryn asks if PG&E will have a role in the desalination planning process. C. Howard responds.

D. Chipping asks if this project will consider advanced treated recycled water (toilet-to-tap) as a viable alternative to ocean desalination, given its lower salinity. C. Howard responds.

G. Grewal comments on Salinas River recharge and other water planning alternatives that could benefit the region. C. Howard responds.

An unidentified attendee asks how the participants will be determined and how water will be distributed to them. C. Howard responds.

An unidentified attendee asks if local requirements, like Morro Bay's A-24, may be factored into the plan. C. Howard responds.

D. Chipping asks if a cost analysis has been or will be conducted and what alternatives are being considered for cost savings. C. Howard responds.

M. van Ryn asks if the cost analysis will break down domestic and agricultural use as well as identify opportunities for farming to improve their irrigation practices. C. Howard responds.

T. Burhenn asks if there is a formal State regulation requiring the use of recycled water as a condition for permitting ocean desalination. C. Howard responds.

An unidentified attendee asks if regulatory requirements will be adjusted based the urgency of need, with potential exemptions for situations of high criticality. Also, is there a current number, or rule of thumb for anticipating the cost desalinated water? C. Howard responds.

**4) Receive Presentation from County Staff on Participating in the next phase of the State Water Project's Delta Conveyance Project Planning**

*Item start time ~ 00:38:12*

T. Burhenn introduces the item and W. Thompson provides a presentation on the next phase of the State Water Project's Delta Conveyance Project planning.

D. Chipping comments on the issue of available Federal and State water releases and questions the advantages of taking water from the top versus the bottom of the Delta.

E Greening asks how the project would be more earthquake resilient compared to the status quo and what would it cost. W. Thompson and Peter B. respond.

D. Roques asks for clarification on the meaning of "Keep Door Open" referenced during the DCP Planning & Pre-Construction phase. W. Thompson responds.

D. Crater asks for clarification on the funding allocation for local and County costs during the DCP Planning & Pre-Construction phase. W. Thompson responds.

G. Grewal comments on the disparity between State Water tax contributions and the benefits received. W. Thompson responds.

E. Greening asks if a recommendation from the WRAC is being requested for the Delta Conveyance Project. W. Thompson responds.

**5) Ongoing Updates**

*Item start time ~ 00:56:52*

a) Rain & Reservoir Report

B. Clark comments that this month's report includes a Statewide drought and precipitation variation chart. The Committee discusses rainfall variances throughout the County and State.

b) California Drought Monitor Summary

No comments.

c) Groundwater Basin Management Efforts

P. Brown comments on the NCMA planning and reporting efforts.

d) Flood Control Zones

C. Mullholland comments that the Zone 9 Mid-Higuera Bypass project will be starting this winter to increase flood control and capacity in San Luis Creek.

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

No comments.

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

No comments.

g) State Water Project (SWP)

T. Burhenn reminds WRAC Members to submit written comments for the March SWP agenda item. W. Thompson requests written comments to be submitted by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

No comments.

i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

E. Greening comments on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information

No comments.

**6) Future Agenda Items**

*Item start time ~ 01:03:09*

E. Greening asks if the Committee would be interested in a presentation from the County's Office of Emergency Services on the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

B. Clark responds.

D. Chipping requests input from Los Osos regarding the relationship between water quality, supply, and growth rate. B. Clark and E. Greening respond.

S. Carter asks about receiving a presentation from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. B. Clark responds.

M. van Ryn asks if Western Growers have ever presented to the WRAC.

**7) Public Comment for Items not on Agenda**

G. Grewal comments on the Governor's Executive Order for stormwater capture projects.

Organization	Representative	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jun*	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>SUPERVISOR DISTRICT</b>															
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		X											
District 5	Allen Duckworth	M		X											
	Fred Hoey	A													
<b>AT-LARGE</b>															
Agriculture At-Large	Jon Winstead	M		X											
	Patricia Wilmore	A		O											
Agriculture At-Large	Mary van Ryn	M		X											
	Jason Yeager	A													
Development At-Large	(Vacant)	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													
<b>RCDs</b>															
Coastal San Luis RCD	Dominic Roques	M		X											
	Linda Chipping	A													
Upper Salinas RCD	George Kendall	M													
	Tom Mora	A													
<b>OTHERS</b>															
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		O											
	Mark Zimmer	A		O											
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Stephen Sinton	M		X											
	Ray Shady	A													
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	Lee Nesbit	M		O											
	Hilary Graves	A													
<b>CITIES</b>															
City of Arroyo Grande	Aileen Loe	M		X											
	Jim Guthrie	A													
City of Atascadero	Seth Peek	M													
	Nick DeBar	A		X											
City of Grover Beach	Jules Tuggle	M		X											
	Robert Robert	A													
City of Morro Bay	Zara Landrum	M		X											
	Cyndee Edwards	A													
City of Paso Robles	Christopher Alakel	M													
	Kirk Gonzalez	A													
City of Pismo Beach	Marcia Guthrie	M													
	Stacy Inman	A													
City of San Luis Obispo	Jan Marx	M		X											
	Emily Francis	A													
<b>CSDs</b>															
Avila Beach CSD	Brad Hagemann	M													
	(Vacant)	A													
Cambria CSD	Jim Green	M		O											
	Tristan Reaper	A													
Heritage Ranch CSD	Scott Duffield	M		X											
	Doug Groshart	A		X											
Los Osos CSD	Chuck Cesena	M													
	Ron Munds	A		X											
Nipomo CSD	Ed Eby	M		X											
	Phil Henry	A													
Oceano CSD	Allene Villa	M													
	Beverly Joyce-Suneson	A													
San Miguel CSD	Kelly Dodds	M		O											
	Dustin Pittman	A													
San Simeon CSD	(Vacant)	M													
	(Vacant)	A													
Templeton CSD	Jeff Briltz	M													
	Lori Azeem	A		O											
<b>STAFF</b>															
Public Works	Courtney Howard	Staff		X											
	Brendan Clark	Staff		X											
	Jenny Williamson	Staff		O											
	Joey Steil	Staff		X											

Notes: M=Member; A=Alternate Member, O=attended virtually, \*=Special Meeting

Water Resources Advisory Committee - Roll Call Vote Form  
Meeting Date: 02/05/2025

Organization	DISTRICT	Representative	ITEM #2: Approval of the November 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes											
			AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
District 1		Melaine Blankenship	M											
District 2		Elizabeth Covert	A											
District 3		Neal MacDougall	M											
District 3		Michael Nordstrom	A											
District 4		Natalie Blanton	A											
District 4		Thomas Burhenn	M	X										
District 4		David Craler	A											
District 5		Allen Duckworth	M	X										
District 5		Fred Hoey	A											
AT-LARGE														
Agriculture At-Large		Jon Winstad	M	X										
Agriculture At-Large		Patricia Wilmore	A											
Agriculture At-Large		Mary van Ryn	M	X										
Development At-Large		Jason Yeager	M											
Development At-Large		Tim Walters	A	X										
Environmental At-Large		Christine Mulholland	M	X										
Environmental At-Large		Dolores Howard	A											
Environmental At-Large		Eric Greening	M	X										
Environmental At-Large		(Vacant)	A											
Environmental At-Large		David Chipping	M	X										
Environmental At-Large		Stephanie Wad	A											
RCDs														
Coastal San Luis RCD		Dominic Roques	M	X										
Coastal San Luis RCD		Linda Chipping	A											
Upper Salinas RCD		George Kendall	M											
Upper Salinas RCD		Tom Mora	A											
OTHERS														
Alascadero Mutual		John Neil	M											
Alascadero Mutual		Jaime Hendrickson	A			X								
California Men's Colony		Scott Buffaloe	M											
Camp SLO		Mike Schwartz	A											
Camp SLO		(Vacant)	M											
County Farm Bureau		Julius Salda	A											
County Farm Bureau		Steve Corlier	M	X										
County Farm Bureau		Paul Clark	A											
Cuesta College		(Vacant)	M											
Cuesta College		(Vacant)	A											
Golden State Water		Matt Cook	M											
Golden State Water		(Vacant)	A											
Shandon-San Juan Water District		Mark Zimmer	M											
Shandon-San Juan Water District		Stephen Sinton	M	X										
Shandon-San Juan Water District		Ray Shady	A											
Estrella El Pomar Creston Water District		Lee Nesbit	M											
Estrella El Pomar Creston Water District		Harry Graves	A											
CITIES														
City of Arroyo Grande		Allen Lee	M	X										
City of Arroyo Grande		Jim Guthrie	A											
City of Alascadero		Seth Peak	M											
City of Alascadero		Nick DeBar	A	X										
City of Grover Beach		Julius Tuggle	M	X										
City of Grover Beach		Robert Robert	A											
City of Morro Bay		Zara Landrum	M	X										
City of Morro Bay		Mark Edwards	A											
City of Paso Robles		Christopher Alakell	M											
City of Paso Robles		Kirk Gonzales	A											
City of Pismo Beach		Marco Guthrie	M											
City of Pismo Beach		Stacy Imman	A											
City of Pismo Beach		Jan Marx	M	X										
City of San Luis Obispo		Emily Francis	A											
CSDs														
Avila Beach CSD		Brad Hagemann	M											
Avila Beach CSD		(Vacant)	A											
Cambria CSD		Jim Green	M											
Cambria CSD		Tristan Reager	A	X										
Heritage Ranch CSD		Scott Duffield	M											
Heritage Ranch CSD		Doug Goshart	A											
Los Osos CSD		Chuck Cesena	M											
Los Osos CSD		Ron Mundis	A	X										
Nipomo CSD		Ed Eby	M	X										
Nipomo CSD		Phil Henry	A											
Ocoteno CSD		Alaina Villa	M											
Ocoteno CSD		Beverly Joyce-Suneson	A											
San Miguel CSD		John Pappas	M											
San Miguel CSD		Dustin Pittman	A											
San Simeon CSD		(Vacant)	M											
San Simeon CSD		(Vacant)	A											
Templeton CSD		Jeff Braz	M											
Templeton CSD		Lori Azorn	A											
			19	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			37											

37

QUORUM (MIN.  
12): 20

MOTION 1														
Item #:	2	Pass/Fail?:	Pass											
Motion Maker:	T. Walters	Second:	C. Mulholland											
AYE:	19	NO:		ABSTAIN:		ABSENT:	1							
Approval of the November 6, 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 2025

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	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Carolyn Berg	Koble Collaborative	/	X					/	/				
Greg Grewal	SLO County Cattlemans Association	/	X					/	/				
Jeff Edwards	Resident	/	X					/	/				
Jim Marderosian	Bee Sweet Citrus	/	X					/	/				
Josh Porter	County of SLO	/	X					/	/				
Julie Tacker	Resident	/	X					/	/				
Kellie Fortner	City of SLO	/	X					/	/				
Kyle Anderson	City of SLO	/	X					/	/				
Louis Lafebvre	Carollo	/	X					/	/				
Matt Watkins	Bee Sweet Citrus	/	X					/	/				
Nick Teague	City of SLO	/	X					/	/				
Paul Downey	Resident	/	X					/	/				
Peter Brown	Oceano CSD	/	X					/	/				
Ray Dienzo	Nipomo CSD	/	X					/	/				
Tim Kershaw	Cleath-Harris	/	X					/	/				
Troy Barnhart	County of SLO	/	X					/	/				
Wes Thompson	County of SLO	/	X					/	/				

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

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**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

**FROM: Wes Thomson, Supervising Water Utilities Engineer**

**DATE: March 5, 2025**

**SUBJECT: Item 4: Receive Update from County Staff Regarding State Water Policies**

### **Background**

As discussed over Fall 2024 and mentioned at the February 5, 2025 meeting, County staff are preparing to take draft policies to the board for review in Spring 2025 with recommended updates concerning priorities and criteria for use of State Water. The policies would be used to (1) evaluate requests to establish new SWP water users within the County, and (2) guide the County as it works to improve SWP water management and consider cost recovery opportunities.

### **Discussion**

Our discussion this month will focus on updates to the policy (Attachment 1) and a new document, the "Framework" (Attachment 2).

The Framework draft was developed in partnership with the District and the SWSAC's water management working group to facilitate Subcontractor review of the policy. The document is an outline of proposed priorities and criteria, helped to clarify and communicate current thinking, and as such was presented to the SWSAC on 2/7/25. Upon SWSAC review, there seemed to be support for including a framework like this (as an attachment) with the proposed policy update draft in the staff report when the proposed policy update is presented to the board.

(Note: Some of the framework has been incorporated into the updated draft policy document, and additional refinements to the draft policy are expected to address the comments from received in February 2025 and make general formatting improvements.)

Staff anticipates returning to the WRAC on April 2 for the Committee to consider an advisory vote to the Board on the draft policies.

### **Attachments**

1. SWP Priorities and Criteria (Updated Draft Policy)
2. SWP Priorities and Criteria for Use Framework
3. 2003 Excess Entitlement Policies

# State Water Project Policies

## **State Water Project Allocation - Definition**

The State Water Project Allocation is the total amount of State Water Project water that the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (“District”) is entitled to have delivered under its contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) (“Master Contract”) on an annual basis. The District has entered into subcontracts with a number of entities (collectively, “Subcontractors”) for ~~the delivery of “Project Water” supply benefit under 10,577 acre-feet of the District’s annual 25,000 AF “Table A” contract with DWR. The amount of SWP water not needed by the District to meet the annual subcontract obligations is considered surplus water. State Water Project Allocation on an annual basis. These policies apply to the entire SWP water supply available to the District.~~

## **Relationship to Previously Adopted Policies**

These Policies replace / supersede the District’s 2003 Excess Entitlement Policies (Approved by Board of Supervisors January 14, 2003).

## **Purpose**

The Purpose of these Policies is to establish policies that will guide both District staff and the Board in implementing the existing Subcontracts and / or preparing amendments to the Subcontracts that address ways in which water that is not needed under the Subcontracts can be utilized on an annual, multi-year, or permanent basis. These policies shall not be deemed to limit future discretionary actions by the District Board of Supervisors or be read as directing action that is any way contrary to existing contractual obligations.

### **I. PERMANENT TRANSFERS (long-term water supply contracts)**

#### **A. Priority of Use**

Domestic use shall be considered the highest priority use of water made available under the Master Contract. Domestic use is needed for sustenance, public health and safety, and welfare. State Water shall be used first to address public health, ensure reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation. It is recognized that domestic use occurs both within the public water supply system service areas and outside of those areas in the rural areas of the County where domestic water supplies are from individual water supply wells.

In priority order, preference will be given to the following three uses:

## State Water Project Policies

1. SWP Subcontractors (Direct, In-lieu, or Groundwater Recharge): Subcontractors  
The local agencies with long-term contracted capacity in Phase II of the Coastal Branch shall have the first right to utilize water made available under the Master Contract.

2. Municipal (for Direct, In-lieu, or Groundwater Recharge).

4.3. Agricultural/Non-Domestic Uses (Direct delivery, In-lieu, or Groundwater Recharge).

**B. ~~In priority order, preference~~Additional consideration** will be given to uses that:

1. Do not harm the District's ability to meet its obligations to the existing Subcontractors,
2. Address public health or a water shortage emergency pursuant to Water Code Section 350,
3. Provide supplemental water supply to promote water supply resiliency to both urban and rural water users,
4. Store available and/or unscheduled water deliveries for later use during times of water shortages to support municipal, groundwater basin replenishment, agricultural, and environmental purposes.
5. Manage demand to improve supply planning and water market opportunities to generate revenues that recover current costs and some or all of District's past costs.
6. Solves or mitigates water supply problems in key watersheds/basins identified by the Board, including: Paso Robles GW Basin, Los Osos GW Basin, Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed, and Edna Valley GW Basin.

**C.** Preference will be given to local agencies and water purveyors regardless of whether the use is on an annual, multi-year, or permanent basis.

**D.** Preference will be given to the use at the same (or upstream) financial reach in which the capacity for that allocation terminates. This avoids the "allocation without capacity" issue.

**E.** Uses terminating downstream of the original place of use (beyond financial reach with capacity for that allocation) would be on a "second priority" or short-term (year-to-year) basis. This ensures deliveries of transferred allocation do not detrimentally impact deliveries of existing allocation to subcontractors.

**F.** Uses must meet the Board-established Criteria for Use of State Water.

## State Water Project Policies

### G. Criteria for Use

The following criteria would be used to evaluate requests for use of State Water:

1. Water be available to existing public agencies, public water companies regulated by the PUC and existing mutual water companies with no water being contracted to individuals.
2. Water may be used as a supplemental supply within the service area of an established public water system only if the water purveyor approves or requests the use.
3. Water may be delivered as an emergency supply when there is an “Emergency Condition” declaration by both the County Board and the governing body of the requesting public water agency or water purveyor. Water delivered under the Emergency Condition would be subject to all costs associated with delivery of State Water at the time of the Emergency Condition.
4. ~~New uses~~Uses should be consolidated ~~with existing subcontractors~~, wherever possible.
5. Uses shall not compromise system reliability or reduce delivery capabilities to existing subcontractors.
6. All costs must be paid by the water user.
7. Uses shall not detrimentally impact existing subcontractors from a financial standpoint.
  - a. There shall be no increase in administrative costs to existing subcontractors. No new allocations of less than 20 acre-feet will be allowed.
  - b. There shall be an equitable investment recovery program for existing subcontractors that recover current costs and some or ~~all of~~all past costs.

## II. TEMPORARY TRANSFERS (single- or multi-year water management actions)

### A. Priority of Use

Domestic use shall be considered the highest priority use of water made available under the Master Contract. Domestic use is needed for sustenance, public health and safety, and welfare. State Water shall be used first to address

## State Water Project Policies

public health, ensure reliable access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation. It is recognized that domestic use occurs both within the public water supply system service areas and outside of those areas in the rural areas of the County where domestic water supplies are from individual water supply wells.

In priority order, preference will be given to the following five uses:

1. SWP Subcontractors (Direct, In-lieu, or Groundwater Recharge): The local agencies with long-term contracted capacity in Phase II of the Coastal Branch shall have the first right to utilize water made available under the Master Contract.

2. Emergency

2.3. Domestic UseMunicipal (for Direct, In-lieu, or Groundwater Recharge).

4. Agricultural/Non-Domestic Uses (Direct delivery, In-lieu, or Groundwater Recharge).

3.5. SWP Transfer/Exchange of Surplus Water

**B.** Additional consideration will be given to uses that:

1. Do not harm the District's ability to meet its obligations to the existing Subcontractors.
2. Address public health or a water shortage emergency pursuant to Water Code Section 350.
3. Provide supplemental water supply to promote water supply resiliency to both urban and rural water users.
4. Store available and/or unscheduled water deliveries for later use during times of water shortages to support municipal, groundwater basin replenishment, agricultural, and environmental purposes.
5. Manage demand to improve supply planning and water market opportunities to generate revenues that recover current costs and some or all of District's past costs.
6. Solves or mitigates water supply problems in key watersheds/basins identified by the Board, including: Paso Robles GW Basin, Los Osos GW Basin, Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed, and Edna Valley GW Basin.

**C.** Preference will be given to local agencies and water purveyors regardless of whether the use is on an annual, multi-year, or permanent basis.

**D.** Preference will be given to the use at the same (or upstream) financial reach in which the capacity for that allocation terminates. This avoids the "allocation without capacity" issue.

## State Water Project Policies

E. Uses terminating downstream of the original place of use (beyond financial reach with capacity for that allocation) would be on a “second priority” or short-term (year-to-year) basis. This ensures deliveries of transferred allocation do not detrimentally impact deliveries of existing allocation to subcontractors.

F. Uses must meet the Board-established Criteria for Use of State Water.

### **G. Criteria for Use**

The following criteria would be used to evaluate requests for use of State Water:

1. Water be available to existing public agencies, public water companies regulated by the PUC and existing mutual water companies with no water being contracted to individuals.
2. Water may be used as a supplemental supply within the service area of an established public water system only if the water purveyor approves or requests the use.
3. Water may be delivered as an emergency supply when there is an “Emergency Condition” declaration by both the County Board and the governing body of the requesting public water agency or water purveyor. Water delivered under the Emergency Condition would be subject to all costs associated with delivery of State Water at the time of the Emergency Condition.
4. ~~New uses~~ Uses should be consolidated ~~with existing subcontractors~~, wherever possible.
5. Uses shall not compromise system reliability or reduce delivery capabilities to existing subcontractors.
6. All costs must be paid by the water user.
7. Uses shall not detrimentally impact existing subcontractors from a financial standpoint.
  - a. There shall be no increase in administrative costs to existing subcontractors. ~~No new allocations of less than 20 acre-feet will be allowed.~~
  - b. ~~There shall be an equitable investment recovery program for existing subcontractors that recover current costs and some or all of all past costs.~~



## SWP Priorities and Criteria for Use Framework

SWP Water Management Working Group - DRAFT

REV 1/30/2025 [\(additional edits per SWSAC review 2/7/2025\)](#)

1. Permanent Transfers [\(long-term water supply contracts\)](#)
  - a. Priority of Use
    - i. SWP Subcontractor (Direct, In-lieu, Groundwater Recharge)
    - ii. Municipal (Direct, In-lieu, Groundwater Recharge)
    - iii. Agricultural/Non-Domestic Uses (Direct, In-lieu, Groundwater Recharge)
  - b. Secondary Criteria for Use
    - i. Improved Resiliency for Vulnerable Agencies (RWIRP)
    - ii. Addresses current deficiencies
    - iii. Available WSA
  - c. Requirements for Use
    - i. Interruptible Supplemental Supply
    - ii. Public and Economic Benefit
    - iii. Fair Compensation for existing SWP Subcontractors [& District](#)
    - iv. Available Capacity
2. [Temporary Transfers \(single- or multi-year water management actions\)](#)
  - a. Priority of Use
    - i. SWP Subcontractor (Direct, In-lieu, Groundwater Recharge)
    - ii. Emergency
    - iii. Domestic Use (Direct, In-lieu, Groundwater Recharge)
    - iv. Agricultural/Non-Domestic Uses (Direct, In-lieu, Groundwater Recharge)
    - v. SWP Transfer/Exchange of Surplus Water
  - b. Secondary Criteria for Use
    - i. Improved Resiliency for Vulnerable Agencies (RWIRP)
    - ii. Local (In County)
    - iii. Addresses current deficiencies
    - iv. Available WSA
  - c. Requirements for Use
    - i. Interruptible Supplemental Supply
    - ii. Public and Economic Benefit
    - iii. Fair Compensation for existing SWP Subcontractors [& District](#)
    - iv. Available Capacity

State Water Project  
Excess Entitlement Policies  
Approved by Board of Supervisors January 14, 2003

Excess Entitlement - Definition

The District State Water Project “Excess” Entitlement is the portion of the District’s total entitlement that is not contracted to others for their deliverable or drought buffer uses.

Priority of Use

1. Prior to transferring the excess entitlement for any other use, contractors of state water entitlement with capacity in Phase II of the Coastal Aqueduct shall have the first right to utilize the excess entitlement for “drought buffer” (reliability) purposes under the terms of a drought buffer agreement.
2. Preference shall be given to local agencies and water purveyors regardless of whether a transfer is on an annual, multi-year, or a permanent basis.
3. No permanent transfer of the excess entitlement for use outside District boundaries shall be made prior to a final update of the District’s Master Water Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors, and then only if the transfer is consistent with the then adopted Master Plan. (See ‘Note’ below)
4. No multi-year transfer for use outside District boundaries shall be made with a term in excess of five years prior to a final update to the District’s Master Water Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors, and then out of District transfers can only take place if the transfer is consistent with the adopted Master Plan.
5. On any out -of-District transfer, preference shall be given to those that provide: a) revenues that recover current costs and some or all of the District’s past costs, b)

maintain the District's right to use the water in the future, or c) which are used for environmental mitigation.

6. The Public Works Director is authorized to determine the annual amount of the excess entitlement to transfer to the State Water Project "Turnback Pools" established under the existing terms of State Water Agreements. In making that determination, the Public Works Director shall first consider local needs and how the use of the Turnback Pool might impact other potential transfers.

Note:

These policies were adopted by the Board of Supervisors "with the understanding there will be no permanent sales outside the District."

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

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**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

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

**DATE: March 5, 2025**

**SUBJECT: Item 5: Elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

### **Recommendation**

Elect Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 2025-2026 term.

### **Discussion**

As stated in the WRAC By-laws, Article V, the WRAC shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the March meeting. These officers shall be selected from the members of the WRAC and elected by a majority vote of the members present.

There are no official rules adopted by the WRAC to conduct elections, but historically, Roberts Rules of Order are used as a good guideline to conduct nominations and elections.

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

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**TO:** Water Resources Advisory Committee

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

**DATE:** March 5, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Item 6: Consider Submitting 2024 Annual Report to the District Board of Supervisors

### **Recommendation**

Discuss the draft WRAC 2024 Annual Report and consider any comments or revisions. Approve the annual report with any amendments for submittal to the Board of Supervisors.

### **Discussion**

As stated in the WRAC By-laws, Article V.2,

"The Chairperson, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall prepare an Annual Report for review by the WRAC no later than the March meeting date. The Annual Report shall include a summary of WRAC activities, actions and outcomes for the previous year, and current status of continuing efforts. The Annual Report shall be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors after review by the WRAC."

All comments to the draft report shall be discussed at the meeting. Any approved amendments shall be incorporated into the report before final submittal to the Board of Supervisors.

### **Attachment**

1. 2024 Draft Annual Report Letter
2. Summary of Meetings 2024
3. Attendance 2024 (Member and Guest)



Thomas Burhenn  
**Chairperson**

*Vacant*  
**Vice Chairperson**

Brendan Clark  
**Secretary**

County Government Center, Room 206  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408

PH (805) 781-5252  
FX (805) 781-1229

#### MEMBERS

Melanie Blankenship  
District 1  
*(Vacant)*  
District 2  
Michael Nordstrom  
District 3  
Thomas Burhenn  
District 4  
Allen Duckworth  
District 5  
Aileen Loe  
Arroyo Grande  
Seth Peek  
Atascadero  
Jules Tuggle  
Grover Beach  
Zara Landrum  
Morro Bay  
Christopher Alakel  
Paso Robles  
Marcia Guthrie  
Pismo Beach  
Jan Marx  
San Luis Obispo  
Brad Hagemann  
Avila Beach CSD  
Jim Green  
Cambria CSD  
Scott Duffield  
Heritage Ranch CSD  
Chuck Cesena  
Los Osos CSD  
Ed Eby  
Nipomo CSD  
Allene Villa  
Oceano CSD  
Kelly Dodds  
San Miguel CSD  
*(Vacant)*  
San Simeon CSD  
Jeff Britz  
Templeton CSD  
Dominic Roques  
Coastal San Luis RCD  
George Kendall  
Upper Salinas RCD  
Steve Carter  
County Farm Bureau  
Jon Winstead  
Agriculture At-Large  
Mary van Ryn  
Agriculture At-Large  
Eric Greening  
Environmental At-Large  
Christine Mulholland  
Environmental At-Large  
David Chipping  
Environmental At-Large  
*(Vacant)*  
Development At-Large  
John Neil  
Atascadero MWC  
Scott Buffaloe  
California Men's Colony  
*(Vacant)*  
Camp SLO  
Steve Sinton  
Shandon-San Juan WD  
Lee Nesbitt  
Estrella-El Pomar-  
Creston WD  
*(Vacant)*  
Cuesta College  
Matt Cook  
Golden State Water

March XX 2025

Honorable Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Chair, Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

1050 Monterey Street

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Water Resources Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report

Honorable Supervisor Ortiz-Legg:

Attached is the 2024 Water Resources Advisory Committee Annual Report. It summarizes the highlights of our meeting activities. The presentations and action items often evoke diverse, lively dialog among those in attendance. Highlights from 2024 include our multiple advisory votes to your Board: Dana Reserve EIR, District FY2024-25 Budget, and the one-time State Water Transfer from Fall 2024.

WRAC continues to serve as the advisory body for water resources for the District Board of Supervisors, with the broad view of promoting water resilience through regional cooperation. Each WRAC meeting provides an opportunity to hear updates from staff, share successes and concerns with each other, and learn about best practices and innovative programs from experts throughout the county and the state. WRAC members and public stakeholders on our mailing lists receive monthly updates on rainfall, reservoir levels, drought status, basin management activities, funding opportunities and more. Between 35 and 50 members and public participants attended each meeting. To continue allowing for broad access to meetings, we have continued to provide an option for virtual participation, though Committee members must be physically present in order to vote.

The Committee is a valuable forum for purveyors, organizations, community members, and more to stay informed about water resources, District staff projects & programs, and more. We added many new members to start the year, and we look forward to continuing to lead, inform and inspire our members and the broader community about our region's water resources, including upcoming discussions on the DESAL Plan, the Master Water Report update, flood control, water conservation and more.

#### Purpose of the Committee

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs.

To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

*WRAC By-Laws dated January 23, 2024*





Thomas Burhenn  
**Chairperson**

*Vacant*  
**Vice Chairperson**

Brendan Clark  
**Secretary**

County Government Center, Room 206  
San Luis Obispo CA 93408

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#### MEMBERS

Melanie Blankenship  
District 1  
*(Vacant)*  
District 2  
Michael Nordstrom  
District 3  
Thomas Burhenn  
District 4  
Allen Duckworth  
District 5  
Aileen Loe  
Arroyo Grande  
Seth Peek  
Atascadero  
Jules Tuggle  
Grover Beach  
Zara Landrum  
Morro Bay  
Christopher Alakel  
Paso Robles  
Marcia Guthrie  
Pismo Beach  
Jan Marx  
San Luis Obispo  
Brad Hagemann  
Avila Beach CSD  
Jim Green  
Cambria CSD  
Scott Duffield  
Heritage Ranch CSD  
Chuck Cesena  
Los Osos CSD  
Ed Eby  
Nipomo CSD  
Allene Villa  
Oceano CSD  
Kelly Dodds  
San Miguel CSD  
*(Vacant)*  
San Simeon CSD  
Jeff Britz  
Templeton CSD  
Dominic Roques  
Coastal San Luis RCD  
George Kendall  
Upper Salinas RCD  
Steve Carter  
County Farm Bureau  
Jon Winstead  
Agriculture At-Large  
Mary van Ryn  
Agriculture At-Large  
Eric Greening  
Environmental At-Large  
Christine Mulholland  
Environmental At-Large  
David Chipping  
Environmental At-Large  
*(Vacant)*  
Development At-Large  
John Neil  
Atascadero MWC  
Scott Buffalo  
California Men's Colony  
*(Vacant)*  
Camp SLO  
Steve Sinton  
Shandon-San Juan WD  
Lee Nesbitt  
Estrella-El Pomar-  
Creston WD  
*(Vacant)*  
Cuesta College  
Matt Cook  
Golden State Water

On March 5, 2025, the WRAC approved this report for submittal to your Board.

Sincerely,

Thomas Burhenn, Chair  
Water Resources Advisory Committee

#### Purpose of the Committee

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs.  
To recommend methods of financing water resource programs. *WRAC By-Laws dated January 23, 2024*

**Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)  
2024 Annual Report**

**SUMMARY OF MEETINGS**

**March 6, 2024**

- Received Presentation on the Mid Higuera Bypass Project from City of SLO staff
- Reviewed Ad Hoc Subcommittee's Report on the Water Sections of the Dana Reserve Project EIR and submitted the report to the County BOS (15-2-2).

**May 1, 2024**

- Received Update from County of SLO staff on the final draft Post-Construction Stormwater Guidebook
- Reviewed and Discussed Proposed San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Budget for FY 2024/2025 from County of SLO Staff and recommended approval to BOS (19-0-0).

**June 5, 2024**

- Presentation on "Are We Ready?" by Dave Hovde, KSBY Chief Meteorologist
- Presentation on Regional Collaboration to Achieve Water Resilience from Jeff Szytel of Water Systems Consulting (WSC).

**June 25, 2024 – Special meeting**

- Received Presentation on Proposed 2024 State Water Transfer from County of SLO staff and endorsed staff recommendation to BOS (21-1-1).

**October 2, 2024**

- Presentation on SB-552 (2018), County Drought Planning Requirements from County of SLO staff
- Feedback on Updates to the Rain and Reservoir Report to County of SLO staff

**November 6, 2024**

- Presentation on Mobile Irrigation Lab Program from Coastal San Luis and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation Districts
- Updates from County of SLO Community Service Districts Members
- Review of Draft Policy on State Water Project Priorities

Organization	Representative	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jun*	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>SUPERVISOR DISTRICT</b>															
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													
<b>AT-LARGE</b>															
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	Taylor 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	
<b>RCDs</b>															
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	
<b>OTHERS</b>															
Atascadero Mutual	John Neil	M													
	Jaime Hendrickson	A			X		X		X					X	
California Men's Colony	Scott Buffalo	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													
<b>CITIES</b>															
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													
<b>CSDs</b>															
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													
<b>STAFF</b>															
Public Works	Courtney Howard	Staff			X		X						O	O	
	Brendan Clark	Staff			X		X	X	X				X	X	
	Jenny Williamson	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

# WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)

## GUEST LIST 2024

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

NAME	AFFILIATION (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	TCSO							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:** Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

**DATE:** March 5, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 7: Ongoing Updates

**Recommendation**

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

**Discussion**

- a) **Rain & Reservoir Report.** See attached report.
- b) **Drought Updates.**
- 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<sup>1</sup> 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	<p><b>Los Osos Area Subbasin</b> (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.</p> <p><b>January 2025 Basin Management Committee (BMC) Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At its regularly scheduled January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 BMC Meeting:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Board appointed BMC officers for CY 2025.</li><li>• The Board approved the proposals for BMC consulting services</li></ul></li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization>

	<p>for CY 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p><b>February 2025 Basin Management Committee (BMC) Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regularly scheduled BMC Meeting for February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was cancelled.</li> <li>The next regular BMC Meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Meeting notices, minutes, and recordings are available on the BMC's website: <a href="https://www.losososbmc.org/">https://www.losososbmc.org/</a>.</p>
<b>Atascadero Basin</b>	<p><b>Atascadero Basin</b> 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EC met on February 12, 2025 regarding the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of Executive Committee Officers</li> <li>Presentation of draft WY 2024 Annual Report</li> <li>Amendment to Appendix A of the Conflict of Interest Code</li> </ul> </li> <li>The next EC meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025.</li> </ul> <p>For more information or to view meeting material, visit: <a href="http://www.AtascaderoBasin.com">www.AtascaderoBasin.com</a></p>
<b>Santa Maria Basin</b>	<p><b>Santa Maria Area Subbasin</b> (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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Arroyo Grande Subbasin</b> is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the</p>

	<p>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 <a href="#">California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal</a>.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/santamariabasin">www.slocounty.ca.gov/santamariabasin</a> or <a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agbasin">www.slocounty.ca.gov/agbasin</a></p>
<b>Paso Basin</b>	<p><b>Paso Basin</b> 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).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PBCC met on January 22, 2025, regarding the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update on Grant-Funded Projects</li> <li>○ Update on Water Year 2024 Annual Report Development</li> <li>○ Update on Governance JPA Agreement</li> <li>○ File the GSP 5-Year Periodic Evaluation</li> <li>○ Update on FY 2024-2025 Budget</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The next Regular PBCC meeting is scheduled for <b>March 26, 2025</b>.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/pasobasin">www.slocounty.ca.gov/pasobasin</a></p>
<b>Cuyama Basin</b>	<p><b>Cuyama Basin</b> 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cuyama Basin GSA Board of Directors met on <b>January 15, 2025</b>, regarding the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Election of Officers</li> <li>○ Report from Auditors on Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit</li> <li>○ Variance Findings and Direction on Setting Final CMA Groundwater Allocations for 2025-2029</li> <li>○ GSA Project Prioritization/Schedule</li> <li>○ Stormwater Capture Surface Rights Analysis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The next regular Cuyama Basin GSA Advisory and Board meetings are scheduled for <b>February 27, 2025</b>, and <b>March 5, 2025</b>, respectively.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.cuyamabasin.org">www.cuyamabasin.org</a></p>
<b>San Luis Obispo</b>	<p><b>San Luis Obispo Basin</b> is designated as a high priority basin. The County and City of San Luis Obispo GSAs, in coordination with other basin stakeholders, formed</p>

<b>Basin</b>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li><b>No meetings are currently scheduled at this time.</b></li> </ul> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/slobasin">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/slobasin</a></p>
<b>Adelaida Area</b>	<p>The <b>Adelaida Area</b> 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 the beginning of 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. Late last year, 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.</p> <p>For more information, please visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy</a></li> <li><a href="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">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</a></li> </ul>

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:
<b><u>Zone 1/1A</u></b> <b>Arroyo Grande</b> <b>Creek Channel</b>	<p><b>Flood Control Zone 1/1A</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The staff report for these topics can be viewed here: <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Flood-Control-Zones/Zone-1-1A-Arroyo-Grande-Creek-Channel/Meeting-Calendar.aspx">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Flood-Control-Zones/Zone-1-1A-Arroyo-Grande-Creek-Channel/Meeting-Calendar.aspx</a></p> <p>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.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1A">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1A</a></p>
<b><u>Zone 9</u></b> <b>San Luis</b> <b>Obispo Creek</b>	<p><b>Flood Control Zone 9</b> provides flood control data and planning for the area encompassing San Luis Obispo Creek and its tributaries.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9</a></p>

#### **e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)**

The District and State completed the Prop. 1, Round 2 Grant Agreement in December 2023. All other grant agreements have been closed out.

DWR released some updates regarding Proposition 4, which passed in the November general election. Please see the attached.

To be notified of the upcoming meetings or any project-related documents, visit [www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm).

A summary of open and pending IRWM grants is below:

<b>Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Mgmt Grant (2011)</b>	<b>\$2,797,000</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3a Project	\$2,797,000	Complete	Flood Control District
<b>Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2011)</b>	<b>\$10,401,000</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
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
<b>Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement 2017</b>	<b>\$877,563</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
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
<b>Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 1</b>	<b>\$2,782,130</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
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
<b>Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 2</b>	<b>\$3,782,129</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	
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](mailto:bclark@co.slo.ca.us)  
 Phone: (805) 788-2316

#### **f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update**

##### March 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>

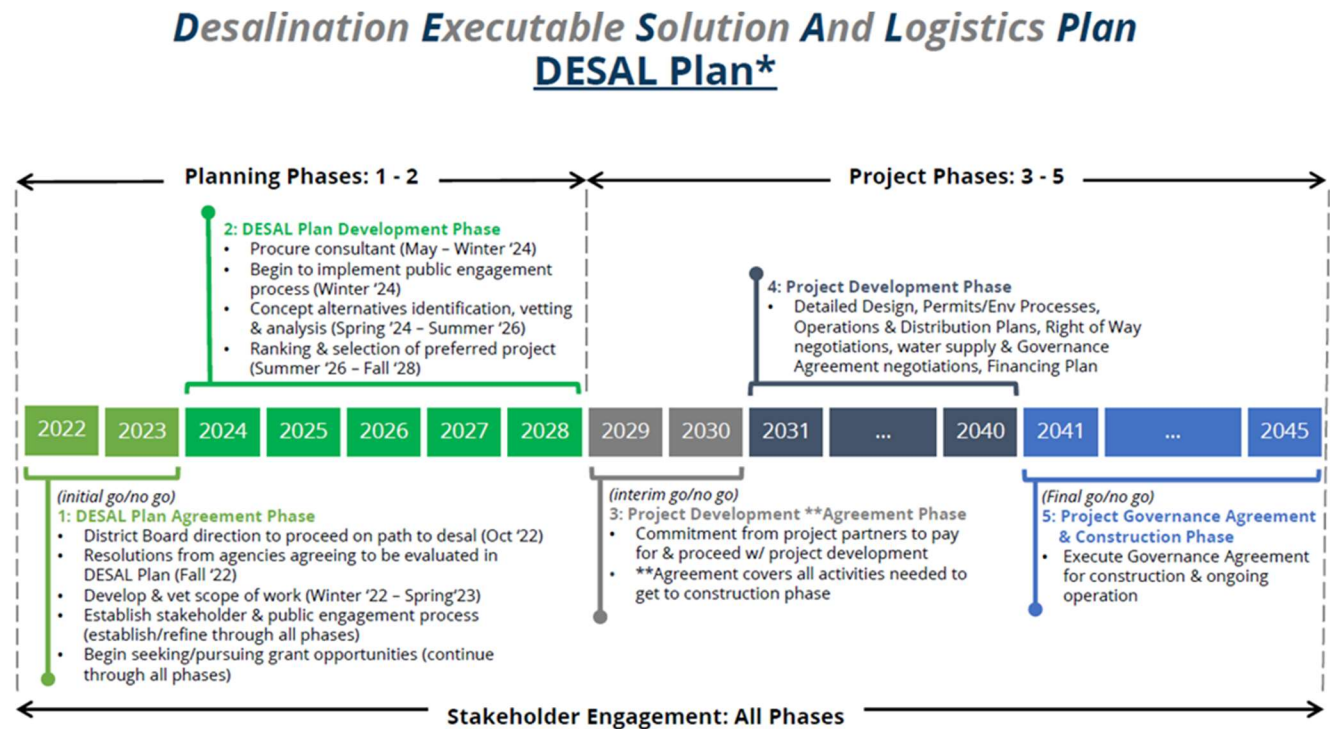
#### **g) State Water Project (SWP)**

- **Current SWP delivery allocation** – For calendar year 2025, the SWP allocation is at 35%, which is 8,750 AF (i.e., the 35% 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, March 7, 2025. 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>
- **Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) Updates** – Staff presented to the Board on 2/25 and the Board voted 4-0 to:
  1. Adopt the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as the Lead Agency for the Delta Conveyance Project, and adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations regarding the potentially significant impacts that may result from the Pre-Construction Work; and
  2. Approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a letter agreement that commits the District to provide funding to DWR for the District's share of Delta Conveyance Project planning and Pre-Construction Work in calendar years 2026 and 2027 in
- The 2/5/2025 WRAC presentation file and recording are located here:  
[https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/committees-programs/water-resources-advisory-committee-\(wrac\)/meeting-calendar/2025/water-resources-advisory-committee-\(wrac\)](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/public-works/committees-programs/water-resources-advisory-committee-(wrac)/meeting-calendar/2025/water-resources-advisory-committee-(wrac))

#### **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, this past January, 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. More information 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

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](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Countywide-Water-Conservation-Program.aspx#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](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](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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:waterprograms@co.slo.ca.us) for further information or questions.

#### **j) Open Reporting on Water Conservation Opportunities & Information**

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Rainfall and Reservoir Report

Generated: 2/25/2025

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. Feb 2024 values use previous datum and storage-elevation curve.  
7 n/a (no elevation) is reported for Twitchell when the pool elevation is below 535 feet.



SLO County FCWCD Rain Stations

WPA <sup>3</sup>	Station	Water Year 2024-25 <sup>1,2</sup>														Average Annual <sup>4</sup>	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	1.96					4.0	25%	16	104%	16.7
	Rocky Butte	0	0	0	0	8.39	1.97	0.28	15.84					26.5	66%	40	181%	72.3
	Shandon	0	0	0	0	1.37	0.29	0.19	1.16					3.0	25%	12	105%	12.7
	Templeton	0	0.01	0	0	1.82	0.74	0.33	3.69					6.6	37%	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	3.74					6.5	36%	18	86%	15.6
	Santa Margarita	0	0	0.04	0	2.34	0.88	0.52	5.09					8.9	37%	24	103%	24.8
San Simeon / Cambria	Salinas Dam	0	0	0.08	0	0	2.16	1.24	7.53					11.0	50%	22	129%	28.5
	San Simeon	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.08	1.57	1.16	0.32	5.37					8.6	36%	24	95%	22.8
	Santa Rosa at Main	0	0.01	0.05	0.05	2.92	1.27	0.21	4.70					9.2	42%	22	114%	25.1
	Hwy 46 W 7 Mile	0.02	0.01	0.11	0	3.02	1.31	0.18	4.34					9.0	30%	30	80%	23.9
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	Morro Toro	0	0	0.04	0	3.70	1.62	0.23	7.29					12.9	46%	28	118%	33.2
	Canet	0	0.01	0.04	0.07	2.16	1.17	0.16	4.16					7.8	35%	22	96%	21.1
	Camp San Luis	0	0	0	0.08	2.05	1.53	0.40	6.78					10.8	54%	20	127%	25.5
	Los Osos Landfill	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.10	1.81	1.41	0.24	4.76					8.5	47%	18	120%	21.6
SLO / South County	Davis Peak	0	0	0	0	3.19	1.07	0.39	5.71					10.4	58%	18	140%	25.2
	South Portal	0	0.03	0.08	0.02	3.68	1.92	0.60	9.32					15.7	56%	28	116%	32.4
	SLO Reservoir	0	0	0.03	0.08	2.52	1.39	0.09	6.80					10.9	45%	24	102%	24.4
	Gas Company	0	0	0.01	0	2.64	1.37	0.21	5.39					9.6	44%	22	99%	21.8
	Upper Lopez	0	0	0	0	3.82	0.87	0.43	5.64					10.8	36%	30	89%	26.7
	Lopez Rec Area	0	0	0	0	3.75	0.91	0.64	4.54					9.8	45%	22	107%	23.4
	Lopez Dam	0	0	0.01	0.02	3.91	1.19	0.72	4.36					10.2	51%	20	145%	28.9
	Lopez WTP	0	0	0.02	0.02	3.00	0.82	0.30	2.33					6.5	32%	20	105%	20.9
	Arroyo Grande	0	0	0	0	2.43	0.84	0.28	2.29					5.8	32%	18	116%	20.9
	Los Berros	0	0	0.16	0.04	2.79	1.19	0.35	4.02					8.6	43%	20	136%	27.2
	Oceano	0	0.01	0.02	0.04	2.80	0.97	0.20	1.73					5.8	36%	16	109%	17.4
	Nipomo East	0	0	0	0	3.15	0.65	0.12	3.81					7.7	43%	18	135%	24.3
	Nipomo South	0	0.01	0.01	0	2.20	0.64	0.18	2.20					5.2	37%	14	131%	18.4

Non-County Rain Stations

WPA <sup>3</sup>	Operating Agency	Station	Water Year 2024-25 <sup>1,2</sup>														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	3.88					6.8	49%	14	151%	21.2
	Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Atascadero MWC	0	0	0.06	0	2.04	1.13	0.28	4.94					8.5	48%	17.5	131%	22.9
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	City of SLO	Whale Rock	0	0	0	0	2.57	1.19	0.46	*					4.2	26%	16	119%	19.0

Reservoirs

WPA <sup>3</sup>	Operating Agency	Facility	Spillway Elevation <sup>5</sup>	Data Date	Pool Elevation <sup>5</sup>	Capacity	Storage [acre-feet]	Max Storage [acre-feet]
North County	Monterey County Water Agency	Nacimiento Reservoir	787.75 - 800.00 (gate-dependent)	2/25/2025	775.30	66%	250,930	377,900
		San Antonio Reservoir		2/25/2024	790.40	86%	325,170	
		San Antonio Reservoir		2/25/2025	761.05	72%	240,720	335,000
		San Antonio Reservoir		2/25/2024	763.05	74%	249,525	
	SLO County FCWCD	Salinas Reservoir / Santa Margarita Lake <sup>6</sup>	1303.59	2/25/2025	1302.15	95%	21,303	22,320
				2/25/2024	1301.39	102%	24,318	
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	City of SLO	Whale Rock Reservoir	216.00	2/25/2025	210.30	92%	35,727	38,967
				2/25/2024	216.00	100%	38,967	
SLO / South County	SLO County FCWCD	Lopez Reservoir	522.66	2/25/2025	518.71	93%	45,986	49,476
				2/25/2024	522.80	100%	49,573	
Cuyama	Santa Barbara County FCD	Twitchell Reservoir <sup>7</sup>	651.50	2/25/2025	n/a	n/a	n/a	194,971
				2/25/2024	559.81	7%	14,208	



## Prop 4 At a Glance

Authorizes \$10 billion in State general obligation bonds for various projects to reduce climate risks and impacts

Increased State costs of about \$400 million annually for 40 years to repay the bond

Figure 1  
Key Goals of Proposition 4 Bond Funds  
(In Millions)

Category	Key Goals	Amount
Drought, Flood, and Water Supply	Increase the amount and quality of water available for people to use and reduce the risk of flooding.	\$3,800
Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention	Improve the health of forests and protect communities from wildfires.	1,500
Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Areas	Reduce the risks from sea level rise, restore coastal areas, and protect fish.	1,200
Land Conservation and Habitat Restoration	Protect and restore natural areas.	1,200
Energy Infrastructure	Support the state's shift to more renewable sources of energy, such as offshore wind.	850
Parks	Expand, renovate, and repair local and state parks.	700
Extreme Heat	Reduce the effects of extreme heat on communities.	450
Farms and Agriculture	Help farms respond to the effects of climate change and become more sustainable.	300
Total		\$10,000

Full Text: November 5, 2024, General Election Voter Information Guide - Proposition 4 Text of Proposed Laws

## Overall Bond Authorities



- Set Aside: At least 40 percent of the total funds for vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities. At least 10 percent of the total funds to severely disadvantaged communities.
- Allows for 25% Advanced Payment for timely project initiation (no max project cost)
- Allows for reimbursement of indirect costs
- Key Priorities/Preferences:
  - Priority to projects that leverage private, federal & local funding to produce greatest public benefit
  - Preference for projects that utilize California Conservation Corps (90150)
- No cost share/match requirements in the bond

## How can we use the money?

7% for DWR Admin costs, or \$20M, whichever is less (90600a)

Up to 10% for technical assistance for DAC, SDAC, and vulnerable populations\*, and may be increased if there is need (90600b(1)(2))

\*May provide workforce training and education, jobs for vulnerable populations

## Prop 4 Issues

- **Office of Administrative Law Exemption\* is Missing**
  - This exemption would allow us to develop grant program guidelines, rather than 2-year process to develop regulations
  - A trailer bill has been introduced to correct this problem
- **Multitude of different terms used for DAC, etc.**
  - DAC and SDAC based on MHI; EDA; socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher; vulnerable populations; critical community infrastructure
  - CNRA plans to develop consistent definitions for use across all agencies

## DWR's Portion of the Bond (about \$2B)

Funding	Amount
Sustainable Groundwater (91012) -	\$386.25M (\$25M for CA Tribes)
Brackish Desalination (91016)	\$62.5M
Stream Gages (91017)	\$15M (DWR and SWRCB)
Conveyance (91018)	\$75M
Ag/Urban Water Conservation (91019)	\$75M
IRWM/Watershed Climate Resilience (91031)	\$100M
Riverine Stewardship (91032 c)	\$50M
Urban Streams (91032 e)	\$25M

DWR will also deliver funding for Flood Mgmt, Dam Safety/Reservoir Ops, Salton Sea, etc. that is not explicitly listed under DWR in Prop 4

## What's Next?



Submitted Spring Finance Letters for incorporation into FY25-26 Budget



In July, agencies will start receiving Prop 4 funding and work will get started on program Guidelines



Working groups are being set up to address overarching issues like defining vulnerable communities



Programs will start building out plans and sharing with staff

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

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**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

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

**DATE: March 5, 2025**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item #8: 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.