

**TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee**

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

**DATE: March 4, 2026**

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item: Ongoing Updates**

- a) **Rain & Reservoir Report.** See attached 2025-26 current 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).
    - The Drought Task Force has been involved with and reviewing completion of the 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).
    - The final draft MJHMP has been submitted to Cal OES. Once approved, it will be sent to FEMA and eventually adopted by the County, District and cities.
- 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:
<b>Los Osos Basin</b>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BMC held a Special BMC meeting on <b>January 28th, 2026</b>. At this meeting, the Board:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A) Appointed BMC Officers for Calendar Year 2026 (no change from last year)</li> <li>○ B) Received the Draft Fall 2025 Los Osos Basin Lower Aquifer Water Quality Monitoring Results and Updated Chloride Metric</li> <li>○ C) Approved Use of Technical Support Services Budget for Preparing an Enhanced Agricultural Water Use Estimate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The regularly BMC meeting on <b>February 18th, 2026</b> has been canceled.</li> <li>• Since the February 2026 Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) Meeting has been cancelled, BMC Staff wanted to provide an update on the initiatives we are working on in the meantime. At the January 28, 2026 BMC Meeting, the BMC provided BMC staff direction to work on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prepare a cover letter to attach to the County of San Luis Obispo (County) Groundwater Sustainability Director’s Letter to the County Board of Supervisors (which includes the BMC’s 2026 Growth rate recommendation letter as an attachment) to send to the Coastal Commission. BMC staff will present the draft cover letter to the BMC for review and approval consideration prior to submitting to Coastal Commission. It was confirmed by County Staff that the BMC’s 2026 Growth Rate Letter has been provided to Coastal Commission staff.</li> <li>○ Review the Basin Plan and identify sections that could be updated based on new information.</li> <li>○ Coordinate with the Los Osos Water Purveyors on the redistribution of purveyor pumping to match the distribution identified in the BMC’s currently adopted Sustainable Yield estimate.</li> <li>○ Prepare recommendations for updated Basin Metrics.</li> <li>○ Additionally, BMC Staff and Cleath-Harris Geologist are working on the Los Osos Basin Annual Monitoring Report for Calendar Year 2025.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The next regularly scheduled BMC meeting will be on <b>March 18, 2026</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Meeting notices, minutes, and recordings are available on the Los Osos Basin Management Committee website: <a href="https://www.losososbmc.org/">https://www.losososbmc.org/</a>.</p>
<p><b>Atascadero Basin</b></p>	<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 and approved by DWR on April 14, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EC met on December 15, 2025, regarding the following item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contract Award for Preparation of the Water Year 2025 Annual Report</li> <li>○ Period Evaluation/Groundwater Sustainability Plan Amendment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The EC met on February 18, 2026. The agenda packet can be viewed at the link below.</li> </ul> <p>For more information or to view meeting material, visit: <a href="http://www.AtascaderoBasin.com">www.AtascaderoBasin.com</a></p>

<p><b>Santa Maria Basin</b></p>	<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 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 at: <a href="https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem">https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/aem</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>
<p><b>Paso Basin</b></p>	<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). In April 2025, the County of San Luis Obispo GSA, City of Paso Robles GSA, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston WD GSA, and Shandon San Juan WD GSA formed the Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority (Paso Authority) through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), which supersedes the PBCC and is the new governing body of Paso Basin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Paso Authority held a special meeting on February 18, 2026, regarding the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approval of Hallmark Group Executive Director Contract Extension through June 30, 2026</li> <li>○ Overview on SGMA Requirements, PRAGA's Purpose, and GSP Implementation</li> <li>○ Ad hoc Report on Stakeholder Feedback on Governance and Funding Issues</li> <li>○ Approval of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget and Request for GSA Contributions through June 30, 2026</li> <li>○ Approval of Contract to develop the Water Year 2025 Annual Report</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regular meeting scheduled for February 25, 2026, was cancelled. The next Paso Authority special meeting is scheduled for <b>March 25, 2026</b>.</li> </ul> <p>For more information or to view meeting materials, please visit: <a href="http://www.pasoroblesaga.org/">www.pasoroblesaga.org/</a></p>
<p><b>Cuyama Basin</b></p>	<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 and Advisory Committee met on <b>February 26, 2026</b>, and <b>March 4, 2026</b>, respectively, regarding the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of Officers</li> </ul> </li> <li>The next regular Cuyama Basin GSA Advisory and Board meetings are proposed for <b>April (Date TBD), 2026</b>, and <b>May 6, 2026</b>, respectively.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="http://www.cuyamabasin.org">www.cuyamabasin.org</a></p>
<p><b>San Luis Obispo Basin</b></p>	<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 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. 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. 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><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>
<p><b>Adelaida Area</b></p>	<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. Currently, the USGS is working to integrate and analyze the hydrogeologic system using data gathered in the initial study tasks, which commenced in 2019, to produce an interpretive report that is anticipated late 2026.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy</a></p>

**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:
<p><b><u>Zone 1/1A</u></b>  <b>Arroyo Grande Creek Channel</b></p>	<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>Over the fall and winter, the District completed (1) annual maintenance, including invasive species control, levee mowing, and vegetation management to reduce winter debris risks; and (2) construction projects addressing the 2023 levee breach, extending turf reinforcement into the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right-of-way, and removing excess sediment at the UPRR bridge; and (3) emergency response planning and implementation, including staff training, staging response materials, calibrating field gages, establishing notification triggers, securing emergency response contracts, conducting pre- and post-storm inspections, and removing downed/hazard trees and debris. The District has selected a preferred alternative for the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project which was developed as mitigation under the National Marine Fisheries Service’s biological opinion for the Arroyo Grande Creek Waterway Management Program. The selected alternative will improve connectivity between the Meadow Creek and Arroyo Grande Creek lagoons and enhance steelhead rearing habitat by excavating pools and incorporating engineered wood structures to increase habitat complexity. The 30% design report is under review and available under the Plans &amp; Reports section of the Zone 1/1A website (linked below).</p> <p>There are two new work efforts kicking off this spring which the District is in the process of procuring consultants for.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Zone 1/1A and Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Programs Funding Project:</b> this is an effort to update the Prop 218 Assessments from 2006 for the Zone 1/1A Program and to evaluate watershed-scale and other options to fund and implement other programs in the watershed that may impact the success of efforts in the Zone 1/1A area.</li> <li>2. <b>Arroyo Grande Creek Levees Project:</b> a scoping study, federally funded under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, to support the District’s AG Creek channel flood protection efforts through an alternatives analysis to evaluate feasible flood mitigation solutions to improve flood protection for properties surrounding the channel.</li> </ol> <p>The next meeting of the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, 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>Zone 9</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. City and County staff are currently planning an update to the Waterway Management Plan, installation of new stream gages and more.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 11, 2026, 1:30 PM, at the SLO Vets Hall Lounge Room, 801 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9</a></p>
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**e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)**

On January 27, 2026 the Board directed staff to submit an amendment request to DWR to replace Central Coast Blue, Phase 1 with two projects, the City of SLO’s Groundwater Cleanup Project and the Heritage Ranch CSD’s Disinfection Byproducts project. These projects are being submitted to DWR for inclusion into our Prop 1, Round 2 agreement. Once this amendment is approved by DWR, the table below will be updated.

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>	
<b>Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2011)</b>	<b>\$10,401,000</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
<b>Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement 2017</b>	<b>\$877,563</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
<b>Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 1</b>	<b>\$2,782,130</b>	<b>Complete</b>	
<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**

February 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 after having started with the Morro Bay Watershed. Focus areas have been developing and refining methodologies for integration with SMGA annual reports, the Planning Department’s annual housing projections, vulnerability scoring related to SB-552 and the 2021 Regional Water Infrastructure Resiliency Plan, and updating the approved to environmental water demand. We anticipate the next WRAC update to be Spring 2026.

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 2026 SWP Water Supply & Demand:**

<b><u>2026 SWP Supply</u></b>		
<b>The current SWP allocation %</b> (and date) set by DWR:	<b><u>30%</u></b>	<b><u>(1/29/2026)</u></b>
<b>The Table A water amount</b> based on the current SWP allocation % applied to the District's 25,000 AF "Table A" contract translates to:	<b><u>7,500 AF</u></b>	<b>Table A water</b>
<b>Estimate of "Carryover" water</b> in storage at San Luis Reservoir <u>on January 1, 2026</u> (the start of the new SWP delivery year) was:	<b><u>9,109 AF</u></b>	<b>Carryover water</b>
<b>Other District Surplus</b> SWP water stored water outside the District:	<b><u>350 AF</u></b>	<b>Additional Storage</b>
<b>Total Project water available</b> to the District:	<b><u>16,959 AF</u></b>	<b>Total Supply</b>
<b><u>2026 SWP Demand</u></b> (As of 1/1/2026)		
<b>Total Project water scheduled</b> for delivery to the District within the Coastal Branch (under the District's 4,830 AF capacity share):	<b><u>3,540 AF</u></b>	<b>Scheduled Deliveries</b>

- **State Water Subcontractors Advisory Committee (SWSAC):** The next regular SWSAC meeting is being planned for Friday, February 27, 2026. More information, once available, will be posted to the SWSAC website: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/State-Water-Project-and-Subcontractors-Advisory-Co.aspx>

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

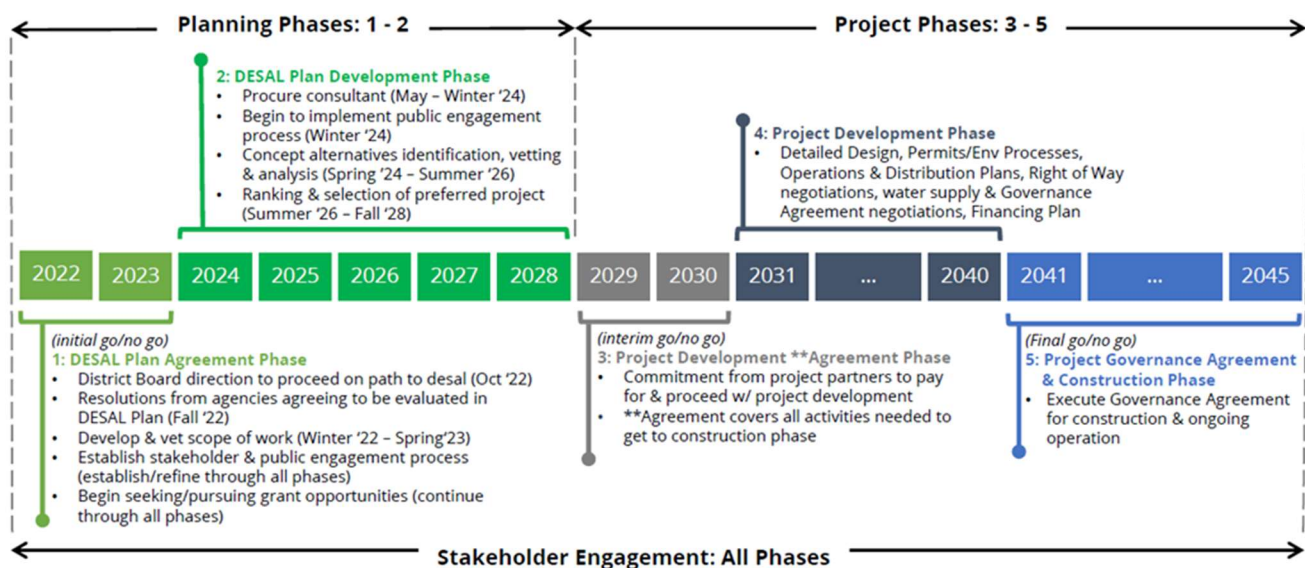
Desalination, the process of turning seawater into fresh drinking water, can offer a safe, long-term, droughtproof water supply. With funding support from a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART grant, the District is collaborating with partner agencies, engaging stakeholders, and working with Carollo Engineers to explore the potential for a regional desalination project in San Luis Obispo County.

This desalination planning effort, which kicked off last year and is anticipated to be completed late this year, will result in a DESAL Plan Feasibility Study that includes a short-list of the most feasible project concept alternatives. Public outreach is planned throughout development of the study; previous presentations and the timeline for future engagement opportunities are available at the website below.

In 2025, the project team conducted an initial assessment of potential sites for an ocean desalination facility, evaluating locations based on hydrogeologic suitability, technical feasibility, environmental and community impacts, and ability to serve partner agencies. With input from partner agencies and feedback from public outreach efforts (i.e., community survey, engagement session, and WRAC meetings), five viable alternatives, each pairing a site with water demands, infrastructure, and facility footprint, have been identified for further refinement.

For more information, including the locations/areas identified for further study, to join the DESAL Plan email list, submit public comments, and view project materials as they become available, please visit the County's DESAL Plan webpage at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/DESAL>

## ***Desalination Executable Solution And Logistics Plan*** **DESAL Plan\***



### **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). 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 the link below). 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. <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/department->

[services/agriculture,-water,-and-energy/water-programs/programs-and-services/los-osos-groundwater-basin-plumbing-retrofit-to-bu](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/grid-items/communities-villages/los-osos-groundwater-basin-plumbing-retrofit-to-bu)

On December 16, 2025, Planning staff presented an annual review of the County Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) allocation and a recommendation for 2026 Los Osos growth rate to the Board of Supervisors. The Board voted to approve a growth rate of 0.4% (25 new dwelling units). Timelines for permitting and additional information can be found on the Planning and Building website at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/grid-items/communities-villages/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:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/forms-documents/plans-and-elements/community-plans/los-osos-community-plan/cert-los-osos-community-plan>. 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 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.

Item available here: <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/164926>.

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: 2/26/2026 10:00



### 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 late May 2024, the elevation datum was updated along with the storage-elevation curve. 2023 values use previous datum and storage-elevation assumptions.
- 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 2025-26 <sup>1,2</sup>												Year-to-Date	% of Year Avg	Average Annual <sup>4</sup>	Water Year 2024-25	
		July 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	May 26	Jun 26				% of Year Avg	Total
5 North County	Hog Canyon	0	0	0.72	1.54	3.46	2.56	1.58	3.00					12.86	80%	16	40%	6.3
	Rocky Butte	0	0	0.47	3.00	7.17	6.58	7.25	8.51					32.98	82%	40	87%	34.9
	Shandon	0	0	0.96	1.75	3.27	2.74	1.24	2.23					12.19	102%	12	55%	6.6
	Templeton	0	0	0.25	1.50	2.89	3.64	1.21	3.24					12.73	71%	18	52%	9.4
	Creston	0	0	0.11	1.67	3.10	3.64	1.70	3.77					13.99	117%	12	26%	3.1
	Atascadero	0	0	0.24	1.45	2.84	5.32	1.69	4.26					15.80	88%	18	50%	9.1
	Santa Margarita	0	0	0.42	1.94	4.43	6.15	3.12	6.51					22.57	94%	24	55%	13.1
1 San Simeon / Cambria	Salinas Dam	0.01	0	0.38	2.03	4.25	6.68	2.60	6.66					22.61	103%	22	68%	14.9
	San Simeon	0.02	0.01	0.38	1.23	4.68	2.35	3.10	4.32					16.09	67%	24	51%	12.1
	Santa Rosa at Main	0.03	0	0.50	1.49	3.74	1.72	3.43	3.73					14.64	67%	22	60%	13.2
	Hwy 46 W 7 Mile	0.08	0	0.43	1.83	4.86	2.48	2.28	4.45					16.41	55%	30	45%	13.4
2 Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	Morro Toro	0	0	0.35	2.60	4.10	5.71	3.12	5.83					21.71	78%	28	68%	19.2
	Canet	0.09	0.02	0.70	1.87	3.33	4.27	2.16	4.77					17.21	78%	22	51%	11.3
	Camp San Luis	0.04	0	0.59	1.58	4.53	5.16	2.91	5.91					20.72	104%	20	73%	14.5
	Los Osos Landfill	0.17	0.08	0.61	1.75	3.77	4.59	2.26	5.21					18.44	102%	18	67%	12.0
3 SLO / South County	Davis Peak	0.12	0	0.39	1.42	4.65	3.27	3.07	4.57					17.49	97%	18	78%	14.1
	South Portal	0.13	0.03	0.56	1.70	6.22	5.39	3.77	6.24					24.04	86%	28	76%	21.4
	SLO Reservoir	0.02	0.01	0.51	1.66	5.86	4.84	2.73	5.65					21.28	89%	24	61%	14.6
	Gas Company	0	0	0.40	1.69	4.81	3.94	2.68	4.94					18.46	84%	22	58%	12.8
	Upper Lopez	0	0	0.51	1.34	5.28	5.40	2.56	5.00					20.09	67%	30	52%	15.5
	Lopez Rec Area	0	0	0.71	1.56	4.60	5.94	2.56	4.84					20.21	92%	22	67%	14.7
	Lopez Dam	0	0	0.55	1.60	5.52	5.77	2.69	5.29					21.42	107%	20	76%	15.2
	Lopez WTP	0	0	0.57	1.34	5.10	4.74	2.30	4.00					18.05	90%	20	52%	10.4
	Arroyo Grande	0.01	0	0.56	1.39	5.21	3.57	2.65	3.15					16.54	92%	18	52%	9.3
	Los Berros	0.16	0.08	0.55	1.53	5.52	4.69	2.52	3.98					19.03	95%	20	66%	13.2
2 Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	Oceano	0	0	0.55	1.21	4.13	3.02	1.91	2.60					13.42	84%	16	57%	9.1
	Nipomo East	0	0.09	0.94	1.76	4.90	2.66	2.07	4.59					17.01	95%	18	63%	11.3
	Nipomo South	0	0.02	0.58	1.36	4.27	2.83	1.76	3.42					14.24	102%	14	58%	8.1

### Non-County Rain Stations

WPA <sup>3</sup>	Operating Agency	Station	Water Year 2025-26 <sup>1,2</sup>												Year-to-Date	% of Year Avg	Average Annual	Water Year 2024-25	
			July 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	May 26	Jun 26				% of Year Avg	Total
5 North County	City of Paso Robles	Paso Robles	0	0	0.15	1.47	3.03	4.03	1.86	4.70					15.24	109%	14	69%	9.7
	Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Atascadero MWC	0	0	0.32	*	2.80	6.56	2.07	5.19					16.94	97%	17.5	69%	12.0
2 Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	City of SLO	Whale Rock	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*					*	*	16	*	*

### 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)	2/26/2026	774.30	65%	246,400	377,900
				2/25/2025	775.30	66%	250,930	
	SLO County FCWCD	San Antonio Reservoir	780.00	2/26/2026	752.90	62%	207,320	335,000
				2/25/2025	761.05	72%	240,720	
Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos	City of SLO	Whale Rock Reservoir	216.00	2/26/2026	1304.22	102%	22,769	22,320
				2/25/2025	1302.15	95%	21,303	
SLO / South County	SLO County FCWCD	Lopez Reservoir	522.66	2/26/2026	515.33	87%	43,056	49,476
				2/25/2025	518.71	93%	45,986	
Cuyama	Santa Barbara County FCD	Twitchell Reservoir (7)	651.50	2/26/2026	573.66	15%	28,848	194,971
				2/25/2025	*	*	*	