

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, August 5, 2026
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.

Per the Article III.3 of the Committee Bylaws, the Chair has called a Special Meeting of the WRAC.

WRAC Special Meeting Agenda

1.	Introductions & Welcome	1:30pm
2.	Receive Presentation on the Draft Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics (DESAL) Plan	1:35pm
3.	Consider Providing Letter to District Board of Supervisors regarding DESAL Plan	2:35pm
4.	Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda	3:00pm
5.	Adjourn Meeting	3:10pm

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

Next Regular Meeting: September 2, 2026, 1:30 pm
 SLO City/County Library Community Room
 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA

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

Purpose of the Committee:

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

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated January 23, 2024

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: Angela Ford, Water Resources Engineer

DATE: August 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 2: Receive Presentation on the DESAL Plan Feasibility Study

Discussion

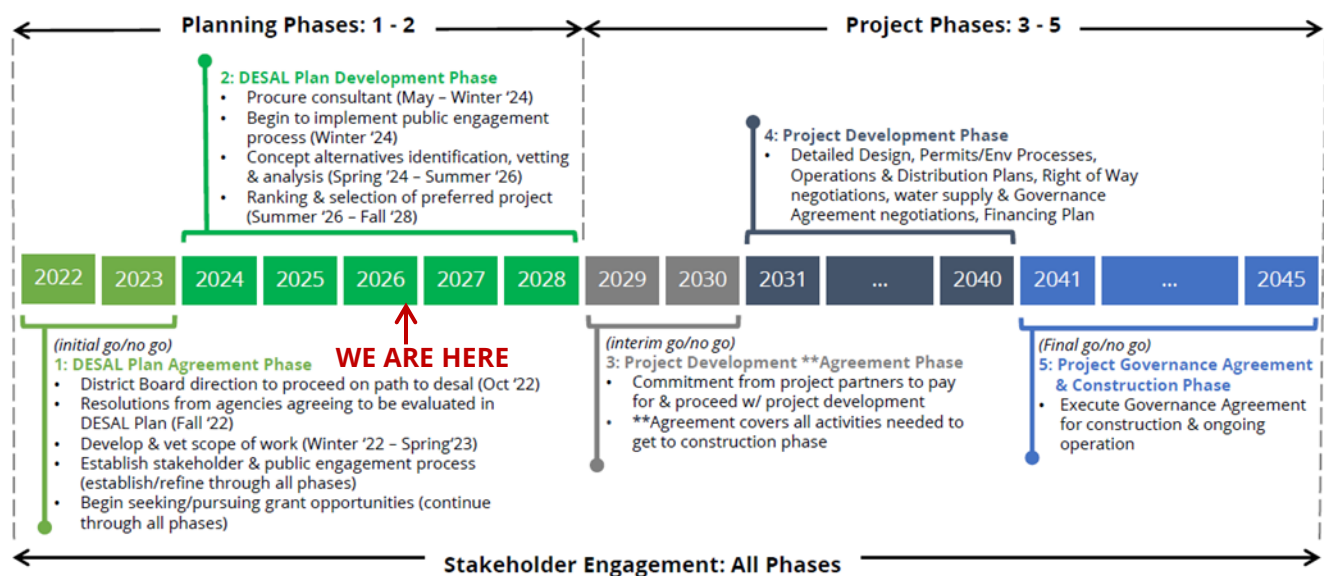
The DESAL Plan project team will present the completed USBR Title XVI DESAL Plan Feasibility Study (Study), a planning-level assessment of feasible desalination project concepts in the county. The Study identifies and evaluates a range of potential sites, applies consistent screening criteria, and narrows them to five feasible project concepts for future consideration.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Study's objectives and timeline, approach to identifying, developing and evaluating the desalination project concept alternatives, describe the short-list of alternatives and their cost estimates, summarize community outreach and engagement, and discuss potential future phases of work that will be required if an alternative is advanced.

Background

The DESAL Plan is a five-phase effort initiated by the District, in collaboration with partner agencies throughout the county, to explore and, if feasible and supported, implement a desalination project.

Desalination Executable Solution And Logistics Plan DESAL Plan*



In Phase 1, DESAL Plan partners adopted resolutions to be included in the planning effort, the Study scope was developed, a stakeholder and public engagement process was initiated, the District began pursuing funding, and a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Grant was awarded to provide 50% of the \$1,096,820 estimated to prepare a USBR Title XVI Feasibility Study.

Since the USBR Grant required funded activities to be completed within 24 months, Phase 2 was broken into Phase 2a and Phase 2b. Completion of Phase 2a is marked by completion of the Study which is documented in USBR Title XVI Feasibility Study framework. This was done both to satisfy grant requirements and to help make future phases of the DESAL Plan (e.g., Phase 2b) and/or its implementation, eligible for other funding opportunities. Since the Study culminates in a short-list of viable alternatives rather than selecting/recommending a single preferred project for implementation, it will be submitted to USBR as a grant deliverable but not for completeness review to be eligible for desalination project construction funding.

Throughout DESAL Plan development, WRAC has received updates and presentations at key milestones. During the May 6, 2026, WRAC meeting, the project team presented the results of the Phase 2a work: five feasible project concept alternatives (see table below). Since then, the USBR Title XVI Feasibility Study chapters were developed, compiled and posted for a Public Comment period (7/22/26 – 8/7/26). Following the Public Comment period, the Study will be finalized and presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 1, 2026.

Alternative	Partners Served	Capacity Range
Alternative A Cambria Area	Cambria, San Simeon	330-580 AFY (0.3-0.5 mgd)
Alternative B Cayucos/Estero Marine Terminal	Los Osos, Cambria, San Simeon, potential SWP exchange	930-1,055 AFY (0.8-0.9 mgd)
Alternative C Morro Bay Area	Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly, all Lopez users, Templeton, San Luis Groundwater, Cambria, San Simeon	5,855-7,855 AFY (5.2-7 mgd)
Alternative D South SLO	Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly, all Lopez users, Templeton, San Luis Groundwater, Northern Cities and Nipomo Mesa Management Areas, Nipomo	5,070-6,825 AFY (4.5-6 mgd)
Alternative E Nipomo Mesa	All Lopez users, Nipomo, Santa Barbara County (optional)	1,805-1,905 AFY (1.6-1.7 mgd)

With the completion of the Study (Phase 2a), there is technical information to help support future decision-making. The District and/or DESAL Plan partners will need to determine when and how to proceed with the DESAL Plan. If there is interest in advancing one or more of the desalination alternatives, the DESAL Plan next steps (Phase 2b) would likely include, but not be limited to, agency agreement(s), additional alternative-specific studies and engineering, environmental review, financial planning, permitting, further stakeholder outreach and public engagement.

For more information, to join the DESAL Plan email list, submit public comments, or view project materials as they become available, please visit the County's DESAL Plan webpage at:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/DESAL>

To access the draft DESAL Plan and/or provide comment, please see below:

Hello DESAL Plan Interested Parties,

We are pleased to announce that the **Draft DESAL Plan Feasibility Study** is now available for public review and comment through August 7 on the [DESAL Plan website](#) and at the link below.

The study provides a planning-level review of possible desalination projects in San Luis Obispo County and its purpose is to support future regional water supply planning. The study identifies and evaluates a variety of potential desalination project sites, applies consistent screening criteria to compare them, and narrows the options to five feasible desalination project concepts.

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to review the document and submit your comments during the **Public Comment period (July 22 - August 7)** using the [DESAL Plan Comment Form](#).

DRAFT USBR TITLE XVI DESAL PLAN FEASIBILITY STUDY

- [REPORT](#)
- [APPENDICES](#)
- [DESAL PLAN COMMENT FORM](#)

The draft study will be presented to the Water Resources Advisory Committee on August 5 before being finalized and presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 1.

Thank you for your continued interest in the DESAL Plan and for taking the time to participate; we appreciate your input and look forward to hearing your feedback!

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

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Thomas Burhenn
Chairperson

Christine Mulholland
Vice Chairperson

Brendan Clark
Secretary

County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo CA 93408

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MEMBERS

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District 2
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District 4
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District 5
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Arroyo Grande
Seth Peek
Atascadero
Jules Tuggle
Grover Beach
Zara Landrum
Morro Bay
Christopher Alakel
Paso Robles
Marcia Guthrie
Pismo Beach
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Agriculture At-Large
Mary van Ryn
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Eric Greening
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Camp SLO
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Shandon-San Juan WD
Lee Nesbitt
Estrella-El Pomar-
Creston WD
(Vacant)
Cuesta College
Matt Cook
Golden State Water

August XX, 2026

Honorable Jimmy Paulding
Chair, Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: WRAC Review of the Draft Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan

Honorable Supervisor Paulding:

The Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan) project team made five presentations to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) on February 5, 2025, May 7, 2025, October 1, 2025, May 6, 2026, and most recently on August 5, 2026. During these presentations the DESAL team explained current progress on the DESAL Plan and engaged the WRAC members to answer questions and seek comments. The purpose of the DESAL Plan is to examine the feasibility and identify potentially viable solutions for ocean desalination in various coastal areas of San Luis Obispo County. The August 5, 2026 WRAC meeting included a focus on a draft study entitled *DESALINATION EXECUTABLE SOLUTION AND LOGISTICS PLAN United States Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI Feasibility Study* (draft DESAL Study) issued by the DESAL project team for public comment on July 22, 2026. The draft DESAL Study identified and evaluated a variety of potential desalination project sites, applied consistent screening criteria to compare them, and analyzed five desalination project concepts in detail.

As an advisory body the WRAC is not providing an opinion or preference for any of the five project concepts at this time. Based upon the presentations and discussions at the meetings with the DESAL team and the July 2026 draft DESAL Study the WRAC members present at the August 5, 2026 meeting voted to **recommend the Board receive and file the draft DESAL Study. (Tally of the vote X in favor, Y opposed, Z abstain.)**

(Optional section follows) Further, Members of the WRAC have identified several areas of interest or concern which may be addressed in future planning and project development processes for ocean desalination should those occur. These are:

- 1.
- 2.

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To recommend methods of financing water resource programs. *WRAC By-Laws dated January 23, 2024*



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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

3.

Sincerely,

Thomas Burhenn, Chair
Water Resources Advisory Committee

DRAFT

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