



CREATING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Discover what your **County government** did for you in 2016.

[BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE](#)

[CAO MESSAGE](#)

TOP ISSUES

SOME OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES WE FACED

The County faced some significant challenges in 2016 and took advantage of some wonderful opportunities for the community. Click the icons below to find out more.



Water Issues



Community Needs



Chimney Fire



Economy & Jobs



MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2016 BOARD CHAIR



MESSAGE FROM THE 2016 CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Watch or listen to the video below for a brief message from District 4 Supervisor Lynn Compton, the 2016 Chairperson of the County Board of Supervisors.



ABOUT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A five-member Board of Supervisors serves as the County's legislative body, setting policies and priorities to best serve the needs of the community. Supervisors are elected by districts of approximately equal population to overlapping four-year terms. The five supervisory districts in the County include the following incorporated cities (in *italic*), unincorporated cities, and communities:

District 1: Adelaide, Cholame, Lake Nacimiento, Oak Shores, *Paso Robles*, San Miguel, Shandon, Templeton, Whitley Gardens

District 2: Baywood Park, California Men's Colony, Cal Poly State University (portion), Cambria, Cayucos, Cuesta-by-the-Sea, Cuesta College, Harmony, Los Osos, *Morro Bay*, *San Luis Obispo* (portion), San Simeon

District 3: Avila Beach, Country Club, Edna-Los Ranchos, Edna Valley (portion), *Grover Beach*, *Pismo Beach*, Rolling Hills Estate, *San Luis Obispo* (portion), Shell Beach, Squire Canyon, Sunset Palisades

District 4: Arroyo Grande, Black Lake Canyon, Callendar-Garrett, Cuyama, Edna Valley (portion), Halcyon, Huasna-Lopez, Los Berros, Nipomo, Nipomo Mesa, Oceano, Palo Mesa

District 5: *Atascadero*, Cal Poly State University (portion), California Valley, Creston, Garden Farms, Pozo, *San Luis Obispo* (portion), Santa Margarita

ABOUT

[About County Government](#)
[Executive Team](#)
[Board Chair Message](#)
[CAO Message](#)
[About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?

[Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

[Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
[Financial Report >>](#)
[Crop Report >>](#)
[Commission on Aging >>](#)
[Assessor Reports >>](#)
[Civil Service Commission >>](#)
[Sheriff's Office >>](#)
[Social Services >>](#)



ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Not for Ourselves Alone

The County of San Luis Obispo has roughly 2,900 employees all working to serve the community. County employees and elected officials are guided by organizational values, and work to ensure that their decisions and actions demonstrate these values.

Established in 1850 as one of the original counties of California, the County has 24 departments all working collaboratively to provide essential services that benefit local citizens.

Elected representatives, including a five-member [Board of Supervisors](#), work with employees to create a safe, healthy, livable, prosperous and well-governed community. San Luis Obispo County has a rich history, which is represented in our County seal.



Official County Seal

ABOUT

- [About County Government](#)
- [Executive Team](#)
- [Board Chair Message](#)
- [CAO Message](#)
- [About the Region](#)

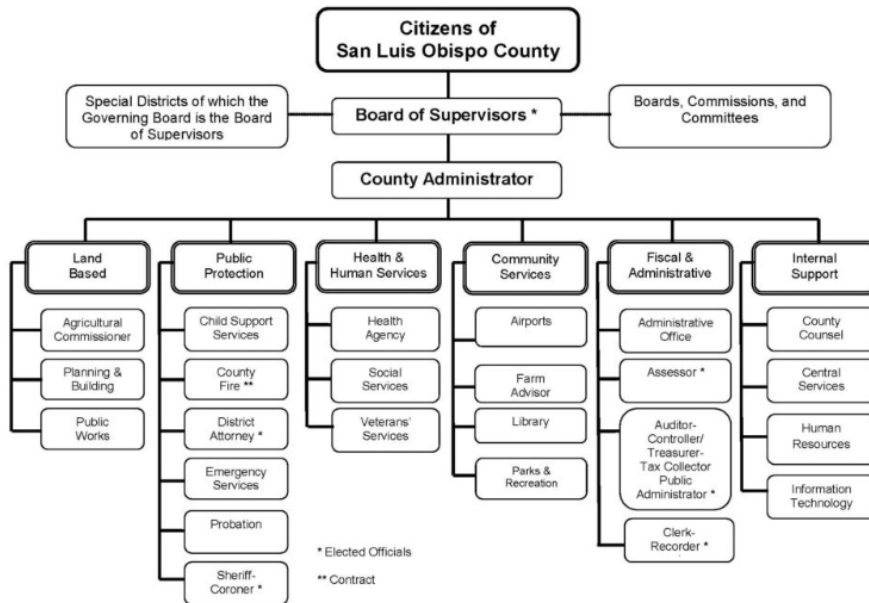
REPORT FEEDBACK

- What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
- [Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

- [Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
- [Financial Report >>](#)
- [Crop Report >>](#)
- [Commission on Aging >>](#)
- [Assessor Reports >>](#)
- [Civil Service Commission >>](#)
- [Sheriff's Office >>](#)
- [Social Services >>](#)

County of San Luis Obispo Organizational Chart



VISION STATEMENT, COMMUNITYWIDE RESULTS



ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES





The County's elected representatives and employees are committed to serving the community with pride to enhance the economic, environmental and social quality of life in San Luis Obispo County.

The County's vision is to create a safe, healthy, livable, prosperous and well-governed community.

Safe Community

The County will strive to create a community where all people – adults and children alike – have a sense of security and well being, crime is controlled, fire and rescue response is timely and roads are safe.

Healthy Community

The County will strive to ensure all people in our community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

Livable Community

The County will strive to keep our community a good place to live by carefully managing growth, protecting our natural resources, promoting lifelong learning, and creating an environment that encourages respect for all people.

Prosperous Community

The County will strive to keep our economy strong and viable and assure that all share in this economic prosperity.

Well-Governed Community

The County will provide high-quality, results-oriented services that are responsive to community desires.

Organizational Values

The County also has five organizational values, each represented in everything we do for the community.

Integrity

We consistently demonstrate and adhere to the moral and ethical principles of impartiality, honesty, and respect. We uphold the principles of fairness, honesty, and respect.

Collaboration

We celebrate teamwork by working cooperatively to ensure the achievement of our common goals. We collaborate within and across departments for the good of the customer and community.

Professionalism

We perform our duties in a manner which bestows credibility upon ourselves and our County.

Accountability

We assume responsibility for our actions and follow through on our commitments. We practice good stewardship of our resources and we adhere to the accepted principles of fiscal responsibility. We follow through on our commitments. We hold ourselves and others accountable for results. We use the resources entrusted to us wisely. We effectively balance the needs of the community with available resources while advocating for the best value and best service.

Responsiveness

We provide timely, accurate and complete information to each other and those we serve. We solicit feedback from customers on improving programs and services as part of a continuous improvement process.



EXECUTIVE TEAM

2016 County Staff Leadership

Not only were the people of San Luis Obispo County represented by an elected Board of Supervisors in 2016, but they were also served by leaders among County employees. Those leaders include:

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

Marty Settevendemie

Airports Director

Kevin Bumen

Animal Services Division Manager

Eric Anderson

Assessor

Tom Bordonaro

Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector/Public Administrator

James P. Erb

Behavioral Health Administrator

Anne Robin, LMFT

Chief Probation Officer

Jim Salio

Child Support Services Director

Julie Paik

Clerk-Recorder

Tommy Gong

County Administrative Officer

Dan Buckshi

County Counsel

Rita L. Neal

County Fire

Scotty Jalbert

District Attorney

Dan Dow

Farm Advisor

Mary Bianchi

Central Services Director

Will Clemens

Health Agency Director

Jeff Hamm

Human Resources Director

Tami Douglas-Schatz

Information Technology Director

Daniel Milei

Library Director

Chris Barnickel

Parks Director

Nick Franco

Planning and Building Director

James Bergman

ABOUT

[About County Government](#)

[Executive Team](#)

[Board Chair Message](#)

[CAO Message](#)

[About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?

[Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

[Annual Reports Archive >>](#)

[Financial Report >>](#)

[Crop Report >>](#)

[Commission on Aging >>](#)

[Assessor Reports >>](#)

[Civil Service Commission >>](#)

[Sheriff's Office >>](#)

[Social Services >>](#)

Public Health Officer

Penny Borenstein

Public Works Director

Wade Horton

Sheriff-Coroner

Ian Parkinson

Social Services Director

Lee Collins (2016) / Devin Drake (2017)

Veterans Services Officer

Christopher Lopez



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the County of San Luis Obispo, I am pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report and to take the opportunity to share some of the key issues we have faced this past year as a community and as an organization.

Significant progress was made regarding several projects that are very visible in the community. The [expansion and remodel of the juvenile hall](#) was completed, construction continues on the new women's jail and the [new airport terminal](#), progress was made on the [Jack Ready Imagination Park](#), and the [renovation of the San Luis Obispo City-County Library](#) began. Most significantly, the [Los Osos wastewater treatment plant became operational](#). This project was many, many years in the making and represents a major milestone in the community.

As predicted in last year's annual report, water and marijuana policy continued to dominate the Board of Supervisors' agenda. Additionally, we dealt with significant policy issues related to the wine industry and agriculture as well as the pending closure of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. Below is a summary of each of these issues.

Water

The County continues to move forward to comply with the [State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\)](#). The legislation applies to five San Luis Obispo County groundwater basins, located in Santa Maria/South County, Cuyama, Los Osos, Edna Valley, and the greater Paso Robles area.

In 2016, we continued working on a management structure for each of the five basins by July 1, 2017 as required by State law. Once the structures are in place, we will work to create sustainability plans for each basin, which must be complete by 2020. While the recent rains are promising, we are still in a severe drought. As such, I anticipate we will be working on water-related issues for many years to come.

Marijuana

In January 2016, the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA) took effect across California. This legislation requires that both State and local jurisdictions enact regulations related to the cultivation, testing, manufacturing, labeling, distribution, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products by 2018.

Here at the County, we are working on a comprehensive package of local legislation to address these issues. In the meantime, the [Board of Supervisors passed another urgency ordinance this fall](#), which will be in effect for up to nine months. The intent of this temporary law is to prevent the expansion of marijuana-related business activities until a permanent ordinance is crafted and eventually adopted.

Around the same time, voters approved the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) ballot initiative in November 2016, which added another element to the local marijuana issue. This initiative allows for the recreational use/consumption of marijuana for those 21 years and older, but it also further complicates the oversight of marijuana. A dual regulatory scheme will need to be created – one for medical use and one for recreational.

Counties and cities throughout California are identifying the societal impacts of these changes to craft appropriate regulation. More to follow in the coming months and years.

Wine and Agriculture

The wine industry continues to grow and has become a critical component of our local economy. While our community benefits from the wine industry, we continue to face some challenges. Some of those include increased tourism as well as environmental impacts and effects on the local community.

In 2016, some San Luis Obispo County residents voiced concerns about events and vacation rentals in rural areas. The County worked to strike a balance between supporting the property rights of business owners and those of their neighbors. As such, the County Board of Supervisors adopted [an ordinance that will serve as a pilot](#) for events and vacation rentals in the Adelaida area of North County.

Additionally, the Board took action to prevent the clear-cutting of native oak trees. The Board adopted [an urgency ordinance, or temporary law, that restricts the removal of trees](#) in order to avoid a repeat of an issue that occurred this past summer.

The Board then directed County staff to create a permanent ordinance that will find the middle ground between creating protections for trees and forests without being overly cumbersome and unduly restricting well-intended business ventures. The Board will consider the permanent ordinance in 2017.



County Administrative Officer Dan Buckshi

ABOUT

[About County Government](#)
[Executive Team](#)
[Board Chair Message](#)
[CAO Message](#)
[About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
[Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

[Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
[Financial Report >>](#)
[Crop Report >>](#)
[Commission on Aging >>](#)
[Assessor Reports >>](#)
[Civil Service Commission >>](#)
[Sheriff's Office >>](#)
[Social Services >>](#)

Diablo Canyon Power Plant

In the summer of 2016, PG&E announced its plan to cease Diablo Canyon Power Plant operations in 2025. As many in the community are aware, this decision will have a big impact here locally.

The County's primary concerns were and are related to the short-term and long-term public health, safety, and economic security of the region and residents. More specifically, we identified that continued safe operation and emergency management, tax implications, economic impacts, and the future use of the land encompassing the plant are critical issues that must be addressed.

I'm proud to report that before the year's end, [the County struck a deal with PG&E](#), which addresses these very issues. In short, a proposed settlement agreement allows for the continuation of enhanced emergency management until the nuclear reactors are fully decommissioned (20-35 years from now).

It will also provide interim funding to help mitigate the drop in tax revenue to local agencies that will occur once the plant closes. Lastly, the proposed settlement provides funding for economic development to help offset the loss of jobs associated with the plant and requires public input regarding any future use of the land.

The agreement requires the approval of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). If approved, the agreement will go a long way toward helping reduce the negative impacts associated with the closure.

Many members of the community participated in each of these issues. Our active citizenry is one of the aspects that makes San Luis Obispo County such a great community and our employees work hard to try to meet and exceed our community's expectations.

Sincerely,

Dan Buckshi

County Administrative Officer



ABOUT THE REGION

The County of San Luis Obispo is one of the original 27 counties of California. Established on February 18, 1850, the County of San Luis Obispo is located on the Pacific Coast, conveniently halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and has a population of more than 273,000 people, making it the 23rd largest county in the state.

Known affectionately as “SLO” (pronounced slow) by residents and visitors, the county region is made up of seven cities as well as more than 40 unincorporated communities. SLO County covers approximately 3,300 square miles and is bordered by Monterey County to the north, Kern County to the east, Santa Barbara County to the south, and 100 miles of Pacific coastline to the west.

Because of its distance from major metropolitan areas, SLO County has been able to retain its small-town and rural character. Despite this, the area also offers many of the same amenities that are found in urban areas. For example, the County is home to major educational institutions including California Polytechnic State University and Cuesta Community College—both of which draw students from all over the world and provide a wide array of educational and cultural opportunities.

The varied geography and rich history of the area provide numerous opportunities for recreation. The nationally known Hearst Castle in San Simeon attracts over 1 million visitors each year and the historic Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, founded in 1772, is another popular attraction.

Many locally sponsored events including the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, Renaissance Faire, Mid-State Fair, Festival Mozaic, Savor the Central Coast Food and Paso Robles Wine Festival, and various holiday parades and events also draw visitors here each year.

Major U.S. highways, regional airports, railroad stations and the Port of San Luis all make the area accessible by land, air and water.



ABOUT

- [About County Government](#)
- [Executive Team](#)
- [Board Chair Message](#)
- [CAO Message](#)
- [About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

- What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
- [Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

- [Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
- [Financial Report >>](#)
- [Crop Report >>](#)
- [Commission on Aging >>](#)
- [Assessor Reports >>](#)
- [Civil Service Commission >>](#)
- [Sheriff's Office >>](#)
- [Social Services >>](#)



WATER ISSUES

[Next section >>](#)

A five-year drought continued to affect all areas of California in 2016, but was particularly severe in San Luis Obispo County. The increased severity in our area was due, in part, to our region's heavy reliance on groundwater, as well as the fact that the agricultural industry is a major contributor to our local economy. Read below to discover how the County worked to address groundwater and other water-related issues in 2016.

Working with Private Well Owners

Groundwater levels continued to decline in 2016 and water quality for private water well systems across San Luis Obispo County were affected by the persistent drought. In order to address water-quality issues, the County's [Environmental Health Services](#) team provided guidance and support to residents. The County also waived fees to replace dry wells within certain groundwater basins and in areas that were impacted by the [Chimney Fire](#).

Because private water wells are not managed or maintained by the County or other public agencies, private well owners are encouraged to [test the quality of their water annually](#). Well water can potentially contain either natural or man-made pollutants, which is why it is so important for well owners to have their water tested whenever contamination is suspected or if there is a noticeable change in taste or appearance of the water.

To help local businesses and residences who have private water well systems in 2016, the County developed a [Well Owners Checklist](#) and produced a video (watch it below) that demonstrates how to do many of the tasks on the checklist.



Creating A Groundwater Management Program



The State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) took effect on January 1, 2015 and substantially changed the way groundwater is managed in California.

This new law requires the creation of new Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, which must be formed by June 30, 2017 in six groundwater basins in San Luis Obispo County. The agencies are tasked with developing a plan to manage the basins, which must be implemented within 20 years of a plan's adoption.

However, the law leaves many of the details related to the establishment of these agencies and the development of plans up to locals.

With the adoption of its SGMA Strategy in 2015, the [County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors](#) directed [Public Works Department](#) staff to help establish community-focused agencies in order to comply with SGMA requirements.

ABOUT

- [About County Government](#)
- [Executive Team](#)
- [Board Chair Message](#)
- [CAO Message](#)
- [About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
[Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

- [Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
- [Financial Report >>](#)
- [Crop Report >>](#)
- [Commission on Aging >>](#)
- [Assessor Reports >>](#)
- [Civil Service Commission >>](#)
- [Sheriff's Office >>](#)
- [Social Services >>](#)

As staff members worked toward this objective, they also attended or led more than 100 meetings related to this groundwater management law in 2016. This is in addition to providing regular updates on the law to more than seven local advisory committees and other organizations, and keeping up on SGMA regulations from the State via more than 15 State-led meetings.

Through these collaborations, Groundwater Sustainability Agency agreements were created, and when signed, will be a critical step toward Sustainable Groundwater Management in San Luis Obispo County.

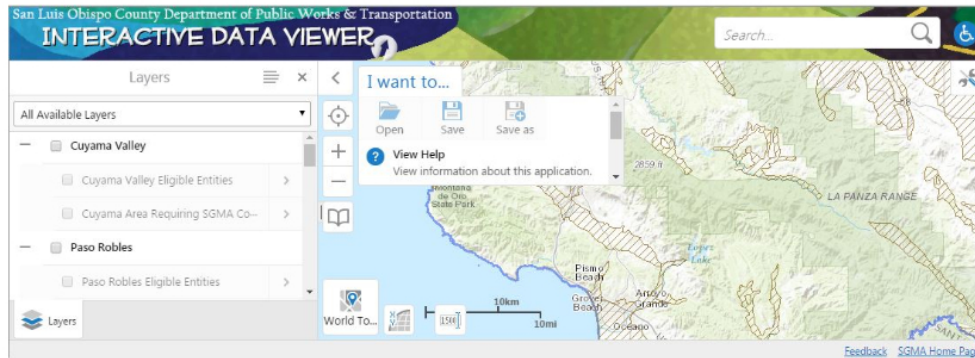
The County also successfully obtained a \$250,000 grant to help offset the costs of developing the agreements and technical information for two of the basins.

Through its data collection program, the County provides technical services that will help agencies comply with SGMA and inform water management decisions. For example, the County partnered with more than 300 well owners to collect groundwater-level information in order to develop a report on long-term and seasonal groundwater basin condition trends that will be published in 2017.



Use the [Interactive Map of Groundwater Basins in San Luis Obispo County](#) below to navigate around the groundwater basins that are subject to SGMA by panning, zooming, or searching for a specific parcel or street address.

There are different layers that show boundaries of groundwater basins, cities, roads, and SGMA-eligible entities.



As part of its data collection program related to groundwater management, the County also partnered with neighboring counties to join a shared, modern network and provide [real-time water data](#) to the public.

This data includes rainfall maps, tables and summaries, current levels of local streams, and capacity levels of local reservoirs.

Managing Stormwater in SLO County

Most people are surprised to learn that stormwater is the leading cause of water pollution in the nation. Stormwater is rain that runs off streets, parking lots, sidewalks, rooftops, construction sites and other surfaces. This water goes down storm drains and then flows into creeks or directly into the ocean.

Stormwater is not treated before it enters the creeks or ocean; whatever material the water collects as it runs off the streets, parking lots, your property, or construction site, ends up in the creek or ocean. Because of this, the County is required to implement a Stormwater Management Program.

The County worked with other agencies to address stormwater as a resource in San Luis Obispo County in 2016. Together, these organizations applied for and were awarded a planning grant to offset costs to further develop a region-wide Stormwater Resource Plan.

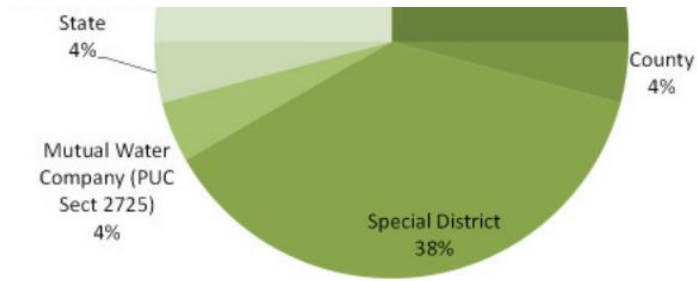
Regional Water Management Program

Another way the County addressed water needs in 2016 included partnering with 25 members of the Regional Water Management Group and five other



agencies to implement the [Integrated Regional Water Management Plan](#), which was adopted in 2014.

The goal is to improve the County's resiliency in the face of uncertain water resources and climate change, improve water reliability, and establish and maintain sustainable groundwater practices.



The general makeup of the Regional Water Management Group.

In 2016, the groups worked together to develop and execute a cooperative agreement that will allow the region to pursue almost \$8 million in grant funding non-competitively, bringing total grant funding to \$33 million to address local water-related challenges.

What are the challenges?

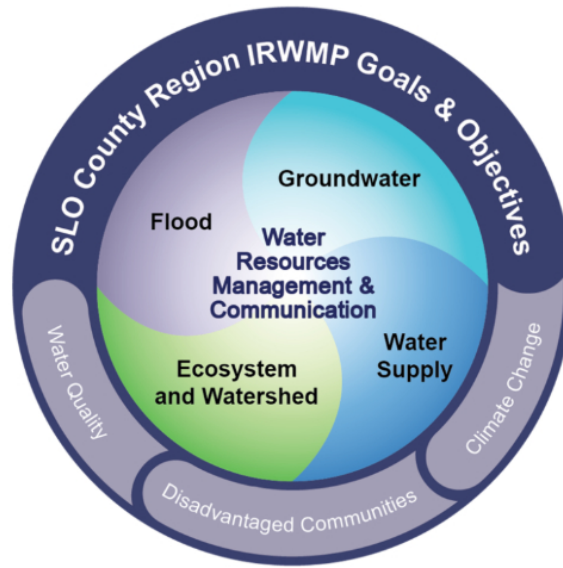
San Luis Obispo County faces several water-related challenges.

The County is located in a relatively dry part of the state and is subject to uncertain and changing water conditions.

At the same time, the constantly changing water demands create a challenging planning environment and increase competition for finite water supplies.

The region also has a limited ability to generate local funding to develop new projects and struggles to identify regional opportunities to take advantage of economies of scale. Meanwhile, local surface water supplies are limited, and imported water supplies are expensive.

But perhaps the greatest challenge is that groundwater has been relied upon too heavily in our region, leading to the need for increased and sustainable water management to maintain both water quantity and water quality.



North Coast Priority Issues

In the North Coast, the most pressing water issues identified by the Regional Water Management Group include water reclamation from wastewater treatment, sustainable water supplies, and addressing seawater intrusion into fresh groundwater aquifers. These issues reflect the need for increasing water supply reliability in part through water reuse and recycling opportunities, and decreasing groundwater pumping in the coastal groundwater basins.

South County Priority Issues

In the South County, the most pressing water issues identified by the Regional Water Management Group include groundwater management, flood control, water reclamation from wastewater treatment, and adaptation to climate change. Flood control and adaptation to the impacts of climate change were identified as more pressing issues here compared to the other sub-Regions.

North County Priority Issues

In the North County, the most pressing water issues identified by Regional Water Management Group include groundwater management, water supply, and groundwater quality. These issues reflect the need for increasing the overall water supply in part through better groundwater management, which includes providing additional supplies for combined use with surface water or groundwater recharge.


The County has been working with, and will continue to work with, the Regional Water Management Group to address these issues as part of [Integrated Regional Water Management Plan](#).





RESPONDING TO AND ANTICIPATING COMMUNITY NEEDS


The County strives to ensure that all people in our community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities. We also strive to keep our community a good place to live by carefully managing growth, protecting our natural resources, promoting lifelong learning, and creating an environment that encourages respect for all people.


Click the links below to discover some of the ways the County achieved these ideals in 2016.


-  [Advocating For Local Veterans](#)


-  [Addressing Homelessness With Housing-First Program](#)


-  [Behind-the-Scenes at Phillips 66 Hearings](#)


-  [Completing Important Infrastructure Projects](#)


-  [Creating an Animal Welfare Fund](#)


-  [Discovering the Environment Through Education and Recreation](#)


-  [Expanding Juvenile Hall for SLO County Youth](#)


-  [Helping Children Succeed](#)


-  [Leveling Playing Field for Vacation Rentals](#)


-  [Making Progress on Jack Ready Imagination Park](#)


-  [Managing Record Number of High-Value Private Estates](#)


-  [Maximizing County Dollar Value](#)


-  [Overseeing 3 Record-setting Elections](#)

-  [Providing Thousands of people with Public Mental Health Services](#)

-  [Producing Parks Master Plan](#)

-  [Protecting 788,161 acres of land](#)

-  [Renovating the SLO County/City Library](#)

-  [Serving as a Model for Public Health Services](#)

ABOUT

- [About County Government](#)
- [Executive Team](#)
- [Board Chair Message](#)
- [CAO Message](#)
- [About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

- What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
- [Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

- [Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
- [Financial Report >>](#)
- [Crop Report >>](#)
- [Commission on Aging >>](#)
- [Assessor Reports >>](#)
- [Civil Service Commission >>](#)
- [Sheriff's Office >>](#)
- [Social Services >>](#)



ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS WITH 50 NOW

<< Previous article

Next article >>



Homelessness is a major issue in San Luis Obispo County, which is why the County created 50 Now, a successful housing-first program that permanently houses and provides intensive support services to 50 of the most vulnerable, chronically homeless individuals in San Luis Obispo County.

Housing-first programs are considered a best practice by the Federal government for addressing chronic homelessness. These programs combine housing with intensive services to stabilize individuals and families, thereby reducing public costs associated with incarceration and hospital visits. The County partnered with Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) and the Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) to successfully create and implement the 50 Now program.

As of October 2016, 64 homeless people in San Luis Obispo County were placed into housing through this program, along with six family members (70 people total). Of those placed into housing, 54 (77 percent) remained in 50 Now housing or moved to other, permanent housing situations. Of the 54 people who were placed into housing in 2016, 39 (72 percent) remained in housing for at least six months. Twelve people (17 percent) left the program voluntarily or were terminated, and four (6 percent) passed away.

Program Performance Objectives

Performance Objectives

1. 50% of successfully housed participants will report improved self-sufficiency via a standardized assessment tool within 12 months of being housed.
2. Housed participants with a history of incarceration will demonstrate a 50% reduction in number of bed days in an incarceration setting, in the first 12 months of being housed compared to the previous 12 months.
3. Housed participants with a history of citations and arrest will demonstrate a 50% reduction in number of citations and arrests, in the first 12 months of being housed compared to the previous 12 months.
4. Housed participants with a history of emergency room (ER) and hospital stays will demonstrate a 50% reduction in the number of bed days in ER and hospital settings, in the first 12 months of being housed compared to the previous 12 months.
5. Housed participants with a history of Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) stays will demonstrate a 50% reduction in number of bed days in San Luis Obispo County PHF, in the first 12 months of being housed compared to the previous 12 months.

Outcomes as of October 2016

1. All participants showed improvements in self-sufficiency. Progress was measured using a standardized self-sufficiency measurement tool.
2. Housed participants with a history of incarceration had 98 percent fewer bed days in jail. Jail data was obtained from the County Sheriff's office. Data was gathered for 34 individuals who signed releases, not all of whom had arrest records. Total number of bed days in the one year before housing was 231, and the total number of bed days post-housing was 5.*
3. Nearly all participants (97 percent) had fewer citations and arrests. Jail data was obtained from the County Sheriff's office. Of the 34 individuals that provided releases for this information, 10 had been arrested within a one year period immediately prior to being housed, for a total of 35 arrests in the one year prior to housing. Post-housing, there was only one arrest among the participants.*
4. Overall, there was an increase in the number of days participants were hospitalized, but a 52 percent decrease in total emergency room visits. According to CenCal, which provided this data, the increase in the

6. In the first 12 months, 30 of 50 participants will be screened for case management
7. In the first 12 months, 30 of 50 participants will be assessed for Affordable Care Act qualifications and apply for benefits if appropriate.
8. 60% of participants housed will remain in housing for at least 6 months.
9. 50% of successfully housed participants will be offered opportunities for educational development, participation in TMHA's Supported Employment Program or other employment opportunities, and/or involvement with peer education activities.
10. In the first 12 months, 60% of participants will increase or maintain income entitlement benefits; in months 13-24, 80% will increase or maintain income (General Assistance, SSI, SSDI, and CalFresh).

number of days hospitalized was due to a single individual who was in the hospital for an extended period of time. This is an outlier in the data. The actual number of people who were hospitalized before and after housing was relatively small, according to County officials.

5. Housed participants had 69 percent fewer in bed days at the County public Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). Aggregate data was reported by County Mental Health Services. In a year of pre-housing, there were five PHF admissions for a total of 13 bed days.** As of August 20, 2016, there were two PHF admissions for a combined total of four days among 34 persons placed into housing for whom releases could be obtained.*
6. 44 out of 50 participants were screened for case management. Data was reported by TMHA.
7. 44 out of 50 participants were assessed for Affordable Care Act qualifications. Data was reported by TMHA.
8. 72 percent of 50 Now participants remained in permanent housing for at least six months. Data reported by TMHA for all persons placed into housing at least 6 months prior to the report. Out of 54 persons placed into housing six months or more prior to October 12, 2016, 72 percent (39) have remained in permanent housing as of October 12, 2016, with 7 percent having left for other, permanent housing with family.
9. All successfully housed participants were offered various opportunities to ensure their success. For most participants, the focus of services in the first six months is on stabilization in housing. Additionally, many participants have disabilities that may significantly limit future work potential.
10. 84 percent increased or maintained income entitlement benefits. Data was reported by TMHA and provided for all participants.

Program participants enter permanent housing straight from the streets or emergency shelter with few barriers to housing entry and are offered services (though participation is not required), and there is no time limit in the length of stay in the housing. Participants in housing-first programs still must agree to meet regularly with their case manager, pay their rent on time, comply with the terms of their lease, and allow their neighbors the peaceful enjoyment of their own premises.

TMHA reported in October 2016 that a lack of affordable housing continued to be a challenge countywide, particularly units that are at or below 40 percent of the fair market rent for San Luis Obispo County and where the landlords are willing to accept [housing choice vouchers](#). Affordable, accessible units and units that accept pets are particularly difficult to find.

The County continues to work with partner agencies and cities in identifying ways to secure more permanent supportive housing.

For example, in 2015, the County partnered with the Family Care Network to purchase nine affordable units to house homeless families. The County also submitted an application for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under a 2016 Continuum of Care competition that would, if awarded, create additional permanent housing beds for chronically homeless individuals.

The current contract amount with TMHA is \$648,323, and is paid with realignment funds. For more information on ways the County is working to end homelessness, visit www.slohomeless.com.

***INFORMATION FOR SOME PERFORMANCE MEASURES COULD ONLY BE COLLECTED WITH SIGNED CONSENT FROM 50 NOW CLIENTS. DUE TO PRIVACY LAWS, RELEASES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF INFORMATION MUST EXPIRE WITHIN ONE YEAR OR LESS. THAT NECESSITATES OBTAINING NEW CONSENT EACH YEAR. SOME CLIENTS WHO ENTERED THE PROGRAM SINCE THE PROGRAM ARE NO LONGER IN THE PROGRAM, FOR THE REASONS NOTED ABOVE (E.G. DEATH, MOVING FROM THE AREA, PROGRAM DEPARTURE, ETC.), AND ARE THUS NOT AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE WRITTEN CONSENT. AS A RESULT, THE NUMBER OF OCCURRENCES IN OUTCOME MEASURES 2, 3, AND 5 ARE LESS THAN THE PREVIOUS REPORT.**

****IN THE MAY 2015 REPORT TO THE BOARD, PRE-HOUSING DATA WAS REPORTED FOR THE TIME PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2012-DECEMBER 31, 2013.**



LOCAL VETERANS RECEIVE IMPORTANT BENEFITS

<< Previous section

Next article >>



The County Veterans Services Department serves as a bridge connecting veterans, veteran service organizations and the community to help our local veterans and their families thrive.

Through this department, the County works with the men and women who serve or have served in the US military to help them obtain the benefits and services they have earned for their service.

However, benefits programs offered to veterans can be very complex and applications can be overwhelming. The County Veterans Services team steps in to make the process easier and help our local veterans submit their claims.

The County Veterans Services team also serves as an advocate for each veteran they help, working to ensure that they get the benefits they are entitled to receive. These benefits include, but aren't limited to:

- [Health care](#)
- [Survivors' benefits](#) (for the surviving spouses or children of deceased veterans)
- [Burial and memorial assistance](#)
- [Life insurance](#)
- [Homes for elderly and disabled veterans](#)
- [Home loans](#)
- [Vocational rehabilitation and employment](#)
- [Education assistance](#)
- [License plates](#)

The County partners with the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, the Veterans Treatment Court, the County Behavioral Health Department, and many other veteran-serving organizations to provide these important services to our local veterans.

2016 By the Numbers



\$7,366,080 in new monetary awards paid to local veterans by the Federal government, thanks to claims filed by County Veterans Services office (this money went directly to veterans in SLO County)



Almost \$61 million in total benefits were awarded to local veterans and their dependents in 2016, thanks to efforts by the County Veterans Services office



109 outreach events held to connect veterans with their earned benefits and the San Luis Obispo County community



3,099 Veteran Affairs Claims Filed:



942 monetary claims



2,157 non-monetary claims



2 satellite offices opened, extending services to North County and South County veterans:



Arroyo Grande Library, open two days a week from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. (Monday and Tuesdays, by appointment only)



Veterans Memorial Building in Paso Robles, open two days a week from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Wednesdays and Thursdays, by appointment only)



BEHIND THE SCENES AT 2016 PHILLIPS 66 HEARINGS

<< Previous article

Next article >>



Public participation is a key element in any County hearing process, and in the Phillips 66 Company case, an extraordinary number of interested parties and members of the public were involved.

In 2016, the County held eight Planning Commission hearings on this topic that had the community buzzing. Those hearings lasted from February to October.

The County Planning Commission hearings considered an application from oil company Phillips 66 for a permit to build and operate a 6,915-foot-long rail spur, or track, and oil-offloading facility on the company's existing Santa Maria refinery property. This would have allowed the company to import and unload crude oil at the refinery via up to three trains per week. Each train would be approximately 5,190 feet long, consisting of up to 85 cars transporting a total of approximately 2,190,000 gallons of crude oil.

While these hearings garnered significant public interest, a lot happened behind the scenes to ensure that the hearings went as smoothly as possible.

Anticipating hundreds of people, the County wanted to give everyone a chance to express their thoughts, despite the occupancy limitations in the County Board Chambers.

The County created a logistics team made up of staff from various departments to ensure an efficient, fair, and respectful hearing process that could accommodate the large number of attendees and public speakers.

The logistics team developed specialized speaker slips, public testimony procedures, and overflow accommodations in the County Government Center conference rooms and the nearby Fremont Theatre. Both facilities were equipped with live broadcasts of the hearing, traffic control measures, and online information to ensure that all available information was easily accessible to the Planning Commissioners and the public.

In the end, more than 500 people spoke at the Planning Commission meetings during multiple days of public testimony. The specialized speaker slips and overflow accommodations allowed for an efficient public hearing process.

On October 5, 2016, the Planning Commission denied the project, but that decision has since been appealed. The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider the appeal in March 2017. Many of the logistics developed, coordinated, and tested as part of the Planning Commission meetings will be used again for the Board of Supervisors. The project (even if denied locally) can also be appealed to the Coastal Commission because the project meets the definition of a "Major Energy



The County reserved the Fremont Theatre to accommodate the large crowds that attended the hearings.

Facility”.

The County Department of Planning and Building wishes to thank the members of the public for their cooperation and patience throughout the hearing process, as well as the many County employees from various departments for their exceptional effort and collaboration.

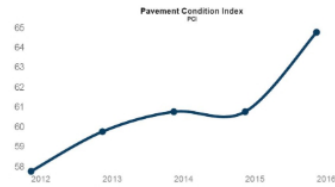


2016 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

<< Previous article

Next article >>

Maintaining Quality Roads, Bridges and Buildings



Pavement Management Program

The County's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) increased in 2016 to indicate that the pavement system is in "good" condition. PCI, also called Pavement Condition Rating, is a numerical index used to indicate the general condition of a pavement system. A PCI of 81-100 represents a "Best" road, 61-80 a "Good" road, 41-60 a "Fair" road, 21-40 a "Poor" road and below 21 a "Bad" road.

PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



In 2016, County Public Works completed approximately 20 miles of asphalt overlay and 90 miles of surface treatment on paved County roads. The County Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining public roads in the unincorporated area of the County.

The County maintains 244 miles of unpaved roads, 84 miles of paved arterial roads (high-capacity urban roads), 414 miles of major and minor paved collector roads, and 594 miles of paved local roads.

The County also installed traffic signals and associated improvements at the following intersections: Pomeroy Road at Willow Road and Thompson Avenue at Titan Way (Nipomo High School)

The County also installed centerline rumble strips along 85.5 miles of County roads to keep the public safe and reducing the risk of head-on and side-swipe collisions.

LOS OSOS WATER RECYCLING PLANT



The County completed the Los Osos Water Recycling Facility to solve the water shortage and groundwater pollution issues in Los Osos in an environmentally sustainable and cost-effective way.

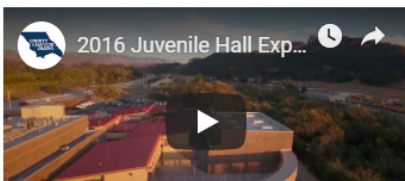
[Read more about the community's celebration of this important element of the County's infrastructure.](#)

INSTALLATION OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) RAMPS



The County installed 30 ramps to comply with the American with Disabilities Act at various locations across San Luis Obispo County, including Los Osos, Nipomo and Oceano.

JUVENILE HALL EXPANSION



The County expanded its Juvenile Hall facility in 2016, which now has more space, classrooms, indoor and outdoor recreation areas, and state-of-the-art security equipment. The new facility exceeds energy requirements, utilizing LED lighting, lighting controls, high-efficiency equipment, and incorporating natural lighting.

[Read more about what this expansion means for young people in the County's care.](#)



GENEROUS DONATION CREATES COMMUNITY ANIMAL WELFARE FUND

<< Previous article

Next article >>



In May 2014, County officials were surprised to learn that the County Health Agency's Division of Animal Services had been named as a primary beneficiary of Cambria resident Greta Kraum's estate. When she passed away, she left a generous gift of more than \$310,000. This remains the single largest donation ever received by Animal Services. An animal lover her entire life, Ms. Kraum wanted these funds to benefit the neediest animals throughout the community.

At the time, however, the future of the Animal Services shelter was uncertain, as the County was considering construction of a new facility. To ensure that these funds were handled judiciously and in a manner in line with Ms. Kraum's intentions, the County waited to decide on how the funds should be used until there was greater clarity about the future shelter and its needs.

With direction from the County Board of Supervisors in 2015 to pursue the construction of a new shelter, a working group evaluated options for how Ms. Kraum's gift should be applied. This group looked at several different ideas – ranging from spay and neuter certificates to mobile adoption units. In the end, however, the group concluded that the Ms. Kraum's gift should be used to establish an endowment, which would generate a lasting source of funds that could be applied to a range of programs and activities benefiting the welfare of animals in San Luis Obispo County.

Animal Services worked with The Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo County to establish the [Community Animal Welfare Fund](#), which was officially created in October 2016. This fund is expressly designed to support and promote County Animal Services programs, activities, and operations which directly benefit the care and welfare of domestic and companion animals. It may not be applied to any expense that the County would otherwise be legally obligated to fund.

The creation of this endowment has allowed Ms. Kraum's generosity to take on a lasting and substantial impact, while also preserving the flexibility to target different welfare needs as they change over time. Conceivably, this endowment may support future programs like the issuance of spay and neuter vouchers to pet owners, aid in providing veterinary care for needy families, or establish behavioral training programs to help dogs remain at home with their owners rather than being turned in to the shelter.

By establishing this endowment through The Community Foundation, other individuals who would also like to contribute to Ms. Kraum's vision and intent have the opportunity to do so. Through continued donations, the Community Animal Welfare Fund has the potential to substantially benefit the welfare of animals throughout San Luis Obispo County for years to come.



DISCOVERING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND RECREATION

<< Previous article

Next article >>



In 2016, thousands of people benefited from the County's Discovering the Environment through Education and Recreation (DEER) program. The County provides a variety of educational and recreational activities through DEER to enrich residents' and visitors' lives, while also protecting local natural, cultural, and historical resources.

For five years, this unique program has helped educate children and offer them fun outdoor activities that encourage stewardship of our local environment.

In 2016, the DEER program delivered a variety of fun outdoor activities, including evening campfire shows with songs and games; interpretive nature hikes, through local wild areas; recreation opportunities like kayaking and mountain biking; fishing clinics; and interpretive boat tours.

In addition, the DEER program participated in special events with local schools, and numerous other youth organizations, including: Camp Hope; Earth Day; and Sheriff's Day at the Ranch.

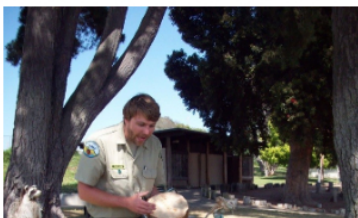
More than 2,000 people attended one of the DEER program's largest events in 2016: The Outdoor Discovery Festival. In its fifth consecutive year, the festival took place at Lopez Lake and included 33 booths that provided environmental activities, public safety education, family fun activities, outdoor recreation, and wildlife interpretation. The festival even started with a Family Fun Run and attendees enjoyed two musical bands throughout the day.

The DEER program also reached thousands of people at its 2016 Mid-State Fair booth in the summer. County Parks staff provided activities for kids, including opportunities to see and touch local wildlife.



Outdoor Discover Festival 2016 at Lopez Lake

The DEER program is funded with a California State Habitat Conservation Fund Grant, the Hind Foundation, a Take Me Fishing Grant, and County Parks. The program uses additional partners, stakeholders, and volunteers to contribute to its long-term sustainability. Support from community groups, as well as private sector, and nonprofit organizations have been, and will continue to be, imperative to ensure the program's success.



The County established the DEER program in partnership with local support groups, such as the City of San Luis Obispo Parks, Open Space and Trails; Friends of Lopez Lake; local and knowledgeable volunteers; and the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County. Cal Poly State University also provided four interns to assist with the organization of the DEER program operations in 2016.

The DEER program provides many outdoor adventures to those who have none. It teaches people to be good stewards to nature and their community.

At its heart, DEER delivers on the core values that guide and inspire the County: integrity. respect. quality. teamwork.



A DEER program class taught at Lopez Lake in 2016

leadership, personal growth, and fun.



EXPANDING JUVENILE HALL FOR SLO COUNTY YOUTH

[<< Previous article](#)

[Next article >>](#)



The community celebrated the expansion of [County Juvenile Hall](#) in October 2016, after the project was completed on time and under budget.

Located off of Kansas Avenue near Highway 1 just north of San Luis Obispo, County Juvenile Hall now has an additional 23,400 square feet, which includes brand new classrooms, housing facilities, and offices. The new facility also has more indoor and outdoor recreational areas, improved safety and security measures, and retrofitted or otherwise improved energy efficiency throughout the complex.

The multi-year expansion project started in 2008 and came in under budget by \$600,000 at a total cost of about \$19.2 million. The project was primarily funded through the State via SB-81 funds, with remaining costs funded by the County and classroom equipment funded by the County Office of Education.

This project was a collaborative effort between County and State departments and other local organizations. Representatives from the County Probation Department, County Administrative Office, County Public Works Department, and County Counsel oversaw the project via a steering committee. The County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector was involved at various stages of the project, including securing the State Bond financing.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District, and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, have been involved throughout the permitting process.

Several California State agencies were also involved in the SB-81 funding approval processes including the Board of State and Community Corrections, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Department of Finance, the Pooled Money Investment Board, Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the California State Department of Public Works.

"Having this new Juvenile Hall is like having a new home – we're very proud of it. It's a great place and we all worked very hard to make this happen," said County Chief Probation Officer James Salio at the grand opening. "This is a testament to how well we all work together here in the County of San Luis Obispo."



HELPING CHILDREN SUCCEED

<< Previous article

Next article >>



Local families received valuable assistance from the County Department of Child Support Services in 2016. Thanks to the continued hard work of staff, children in our community can live healthy and productive lives.

With a workload of almost 4,000 cases, child support services caseworkers helped parents and employers establish and enforce court-ordered child and medical support in 2016. For the majority of cases, parents dutifully supported their children. However, there were cases in which child support payments weren't forthcoming. That's when the County Department of Child Support Services stepped in. Caseworkers responded on behalf of the child to collect the court-ordered support.

In 2016, County staff collected and distributed \$14.3 million in child support to help local families meet their basic needs. In tough economic times, the money collected and distributed means that parents don't have to choose between food and medical care for their children. They can have both.

In one 2016 case, a father owed his four children about \$41,000 in past-due support, but refused to pay. A County caseworker intervened and collected nearly \$40,000 by filing a lien on an inheritance the father was expecting to receive. Thanks to the caseworker's efforts, the mother and guardian of his children could afford braces and mouth surgery for one of their children.

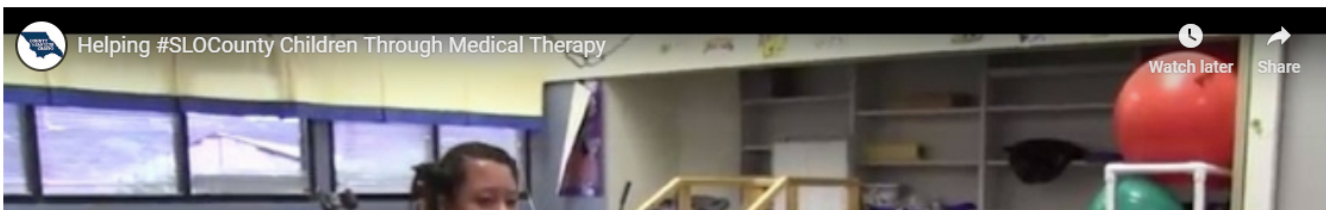
Since its inception in the late '90s, the [County's child support program has been the top performer in California](#). This is measured by five key metrics: paternity establishment, order establishment, percent of current support collected, cases with arrears collections and cost effectiveness.

Along with collecting child support owed to families, child support caseworkers also often serve as a bridge between parents to help them communicate. Caseworkers aim to foster trust by encouraging regular communication and proactive action, rather than avoidance out of fear.

As the world continues to advance with technological processes the County must also keep pace. To make the child support process even easier on parents, the County Department of Child Support Services went paperless in 2016. A new paperless management system was launched in July 2016 to conserve resources and maintain world-class service. Staff can now file legal documents electronically, which allows caseworkers to more quickly begin collecting money that families rely on to survive.

This new system is also expected to increase productivity, improve response time and enhance customer satisfaction.

Treating Children with Disabilities





The County also helps children through its [Medical Therapy Program](#), which is connected with [California Children's Services](#). This program provides occupational and physical therapy for local children with musculoskeletal or neuromuscular conditions, from birth to 21 years of age.

Children who participate in the program have a variety of conditions, such as:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida
- Arthritis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Specific types of traumatic injuries such as:
 - Burns
 - Amputation
 - Near Drowning
 - Traumatic Head Injury
- A child under three with physical findings suggestive of Cerebral Palsy or muscle disease

At any given time in 2016, the County treated approximately 225 clients through this program, four of whom graduated when they turned 21 last year.

The program has six physical therapists and six occupational therapists that treat children at no cost to the families. These medical therapy services are provided at the County's four Medi-Cal Certified Outpatient Rehabilitation Centers located in Atascadero, Oceano, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo.

Each Medical Therapy Unit also has a bilingual therapy aide who assists in treatment, runs the scheduling program and provides clerical support. The aides also help with translation both during therapy sessions and medical therapy conferences.

Physical therapy is primarily provided to address mobility and ambulation needs. Occupational therapy, on the other hand, is primarily provided to address self-help skills or daily activities, such as self-dressing and eating, independently. The County's licensed physical and occupational therapists possess at least a bachelor's degree, some with master's or doctorate degrees.

The County also hosted 18 clinics called Medical Therapy Conferences, where children and their family met with a physician and the County's Medical Therapy team to assess the child's medical needs, determine the diagnosis and recommend appropriate treatment for the child.

At these clinics in 2016, families also met with the treating therapists (OT and/or PT), pediatric clinical director, nurse case manager, social worker, and pediatric rehabilitation specialist managing physician who travels to SLO County from special care centers such as the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and Children's Hospital Oakland.



LEVELING PLAYING FIELD FOR VACATION RENTALS

<< Previous article

Next article >>



News for Vacation Rentals

In an effort to give all vacation rentals an equal chance to succeed, in September 2016 the County government set out to better enforce regulations on vacation rentals operating without a valid lodging business license in the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County.

The County Board of Supervisors approved a service agreement on Sept. 20, 2016 with Host Compliance LLC to make it easier for County staff to collect Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) from residential property owners who rent out their homes or secondary dwellings. The services also allow the County to enforce important building codes. The agreement was proposed by County Planning and Building Director James A. Bergman and County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector James P. Erb.

“Unlike licensed lodging businesses operating in the County, unlicensed vacation rentals don’t comply with land-use regulations and aren’t collecting or reporting required TOT and related assessments,” Erb said. “Allowing them to operate this way puts legally established vacation rentals in a competitive disadvantage, while also presenting code enforcement challenges.”

The agreement with Host Compliance will cost the County nearly \$72,000 for the first year, but as a result the County could potentially receive \$150,000 in increased TOT each year. Host Compliance’s services will also allow the County to enforce building codes related to these types of rentals.

In 2016, there were 1,147 licensed lodging businesses operating in the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. Of these licensed lodging businesses, 1,022 were vacation rentals. In fiscal year 2015-16, licensed lodging businesses reported and remitted more than \$9.2 million in TOT to the County General Fund, helping the County provide vital services to the people of San Luis Obispo County.

With the growing vacation rental industry and associated online vacation rental platforms that offer booking for vacation homes, the number of available rentals in the region has increased. However, these rental platforms do not share information about the property (i.e., property owner name or address) with local governments.

For unlicensed vacation rentals, becoming licensed is usually a simple and inexpensive three-step process, which typically costs less than \$100 and can usually be completed in one visit to the County Government Center. The steps to obtain a license can be found on the [County’s website in the Tax Collector’s FAQs section](#).

Host Compliance is now working for the County to identify all potential vacation rentals in the unincorporated areas using proprietary software; providing statistics on vacation rental activity in the area; monitoring compliance for vacation rentals by notifying unpermitted rentals that they need to obtain permits and licenses; ensuring TOT compliance; and providing a 24/7 complaint hotline for neighbors.



MAKING PROGRESS ON JACK READY IMAGINATION PARK

<< Previous article

Next article >>



The team at [County Parks](#) and supporters of local nonprofit [Jacks Helping Hand](#) are more excited than ever about the progress made in 2016 on the [Jack Ready Imagination Park](#), the first universally accessible park for physically challenged children in San Luis Obispo County.

In 2016, the County made considerable progress on the basic infrastructure of the park by completing the concrete sidewalks, asphalt entrance access, parking lots, curbs and gutters.

Once completed, the park will be a place that will allow children with disabilities to play with their peers while also providing a fun and relaxing experience for the entire family. The park will include an accessible playground, a therapeutic riding facility, sports courts, playing fields, accessible hiking trails as well as picnic areas.

The goal is to ensure that all children have a safe and beautiful place to play and thrive outside in the sunshine.

The park is named after the late Jack Ready, a young SLO County boy who succumbed to brain cancer in 2004. Two years later, his parents Paul and Bridget Ready formed Jack's Helping Hand, Inc., a designated 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation, to help disabled children and their families. Through the nonprofit, the couple has opened three toy lending libraries in San Luis Obispo County, sponsored support groups, and initiated special classes for disabled children. In addition, Jack's Helping Hand has partnered with the County to construct Jack Ready Imagination Park.

A Work in Progress

In 2005, an undeveloped 30-acre parcel of land in Nipomo was donated to the County by Nicholas and Kathleen Tompkins to establish a park in memory of their nephew, Jack Ready.

Since that time, the park has been a work in progress and one of Jack's Helping Hand supporters' fondest dreams.

In 2010, Jack's Helping Hand supporters created a site plan, complete with buildings, landscaping, a playground, and an equestrian center.

In 2012, the County Board of Supervisors committed \$500,000 of County Park Public Facility Fee funds and Quimby Fee funds to develop the park, which adds to the existing and future private contributions and grant funds designated for the park. At the end of 2016, Jack's Helping Hand had secured nearly \$1 million in private contributions and in kind donations to construct the park.

In 2014, Jack's Helping Hand held a groundbreaking ceremony that was attended by board members, elected officials and other supporters. Since then, the park land has

been graded and water well and systems have been installed. A multi-user public restroom, the first vertical park improvement, was delivered onsite on October 2015.

In 2016, as mentioned above, concrete sidewalks, asphalt entrance access, parking lots, curbs and gutters were completed, giving the park the necessary infrastructure for future recreational features.

Jack's Helping Hand has received generous community support both in addressing needs of children and families, and in constructing the Jack Ready Imagination Park.

The next step is to construct the playground area and the equestrian center. The momentum is expected to keep going with park improvements that the entire community will soon be able to enjoy this one-of-a-kind park in SLO County.

Upon its completion the park will be maintained at no cost to the County. Jack's Helping Hand will provide all of operating, maintenance, administrative and programming services for the park.



MANAGING RECORD NUMBER OF HIGH-VALUE PRIVATE ESTATES

<< Previous article

Next article >>



A County Public Administrator employee on a site investigation looking for any clues for family, assets, accounts, etc.

What happens when people die and there is no known family or other party willing and able to handle their affairs? Who will try to locate family? Who will try to determine if a will exists? Who will make the burial or cremation arrangements? Who will pay their bills, close their accounts, and distribute any assets?

When people in San Luis Obispo County die with no personal representative appointed to administer their estates or affairs, the County Public Administrator is legally mandated to step in and distribute the assets of the estate.

Many such cases involve people with very few assets. **However, 2016 set an all-time record with three active cases where the estates were over \$1 million.**

In one such case, the County was unable to locate an heir, despite extensive efforts. Rather than transfer the money to the State, the County decided to hire a professional firm to locate an heir. The efforts were ultimately successful and, needless to say, the heir was extremely surprised.

In a typical year, the Public Administrator conducts about 15 to 20 formal investigations, and accepts five to 10 new cases for administration.

In 2016, however, the Public Administrator was unusually busy with a record-breaking 30 investigations. In 21 of these cases, either another family member was located who was willing and able to administer the estate, or there were not enough assets to administer. The County took on the other nine cases.

"While the term 'Public Administrator' may seem generic, the duties of this office are quite extraordinary," said County Auditor-Controller Division Manager Gordon Eiland. "The Public Administrator only gets involved as a last measure when there is no one else with higher authority to act."

When someone passes away and the County Coroner is unable to locate family, the Public Administrator will be called in to investigate the residence and launch an extensive search for documents and clues about the family and the person's final wishes.

During this investigation, the Public Administrator attempts to reconstruct the person's life. This process can often be heartbreaking for County staff, as the lens into another's life often reveals the loneliness and depression experienced in the deceased's final days.

The Public Administrator will scour the entire residence for clues, which may come from address books, checkbooks, mail, personal computers, or even scraps of paper with handwritten notes. Every room, every drawer, and every nook and cranny will be searched. Key documents, like wills, have even been found stuffed in books.



Every document is searched. Protective clothing is worn in some cases, depending on the condition of the estate and contents.

“The site work can be quite dirty and not for the squeamish, as often residences are in disarray, and while the coroner may have removed the body, the odors and other evidence of death can remain,” Eiland said.

If family can be located and is willing and able to act, or a last will and testament is found, the Public Administrator will often refer the case to the family or others as named in the will.

If not, then the County is responsible for acting on behalf of the person to handle final affairs, including locating and liquidating assets, paying bills, arranging for cremation or burial, and distributing the remainder of the estate to any heirs.



Garbage, trash and filth are common in estates managed by the County Public Administrator.



MAXIMIZING COUNTY DOLLAR VALUE

<< Previous article

Next article >>



In order to provide the community with efficient, effective vital services, the County has a small department working behind the scenes that supports the operational needs of all County departments.

This department is called Central Services, and in 2016, its small team of about 29 full-time staff members managed County purchasing, fleet, real property, and mail delivery services, and provided responsive and cost-effective services to departments to achieve their goals. In 2016, the Central Services Department:

- Managed 150 leased public properties and 274 parcels of County-owned real estate
- Saved County departments about \$2 million on goods and services purchased
- Finished replacing 126 non-emergency vehicles, which reduced the County's carbon footprint
- Processed and produced 15 film permits allowing entertainment industry to film commercials, television shows and motion pictures here in SLO County
- Delivered nearly 1 million pieces of internal and external mail to County departments during business hours

Thanks to its hard work in these areas, the department helped the County earn numerous awards and accolades. The County earned the prestigious [21st Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement for 2016 from the National Procurement Institute, Inc.](#) and the [Outstanding Agency Accreditation Achievement award from the National Institute of Governmental Procurement](#).

Both awards recognize public organizations across the nation by evaluating their procedures and strategies when it comes to procuring goods, services and supplies using public funds. The County was one of only 48 counties in the United States and Canada to earn the Achievement of Excellence award and one of only 58 governmental agencies in the United States and Canada to earn the accreditation. It was the only agency in California to receive both awards.

"This accreditation solidifies the County of San Luis Obispo's purchasing competency and credibility," said County Central Services Director, Will Clemens. "We are stewards of public funds and we must all work together to maintain public trust in how we spend public funds. This award demonstrates that we're leaders in the public sector in this area."

The County also won a spot on the 100 Best Fleets in the Americas, a program that recognizes and rewards high-performing fleet operations. Currently in its 16th year, 100 Best Fleets identifies and encourages ever-increasing levels of performance improvement within the fleet industry.

One of the County's automotive mechanics, Jason Boardman, designed and assembled two solid-state control modules used in Sheriff's patrol vehicles. The first module automatically disables the siren when the vehicle is placed in park, allowing public safety drivers to exit their vehicles faster in emergency situations, while at the same time, reducing the vehicle electric usage and improving reliability. The second module prevents the patrol vehicle from being stolen while unattended and left running.

The Central Services team also helped the County Health Agency's Behavioral Health Department expand its South County operations. By providing leasing services, Central Services staff helped the Behavioral Health Department provide services required by the Affordable Care Act.

Additionally, Central Services staff provided leasing expertise and assistance to help the County Department of Social Services expand its North County Welfare to Work

program and its San Luis Obispo social services programs, to provide for additional staff and mass storage needed to respond to an increase in caseloads following Affordable Care Act implementation.

2016 Productions in SLO County

The County's Central Services Department issued 15 film permits, totaling \$7,268, allowing various individuals and organizations to film commercials, movies, and other advertisements here in SLO County. Below is information on some of those permits.



Subaru commercial. The County issued a film permit in January 2016 to a production company called Mopod Films, LLC., to film a Subaru car commercial. The commercial was filmed in North County on Vineyard Drive, Adelaida Road, Chimney Rock Road, and Santa Rita Road. The production included an unmanned aircraft (drone) and required traffic control by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The County Sheriff's Office, County Fire Department, and the local Federal Aviation Administration tower were all notified in advance. Local residents were also notified 72 hours in advance.



Independent Film "Inheritance". The County issued a film permit in February 2016 to Portola Pictures, LLC, to film an independent movie called "Inheritance" in Cayucos. The County Sheriff was advised of the filming and no traffic control was needed from the CHP. However, there were temporary closures to six parking stalls and a sidewalk. Special event signage was also required. Portions of the film were shot in Third Street Park, Cayucos Market, on Cayucos Beach, Cayucos Pier, and four County roads.



Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. The County issued a film permit in July 2016 to Evolution Film and Tape, Inc., to film background shots in Cambria for the Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Most of the filming was conducted at private residences, but some filming was done on Main Street and Moonstone Beach Drive.



COUNTY MANAGES RECORD-SETTING ELECTIONS

<< Previous article

Next article >>



The County Clerk-Recorder's office had a banner year conducting elections. Many people may not be aware that County government is solely responsible for administering elections. In San Luis Obispo County, this is done through the County Clerk-Recorder's office.

In 2016, the County Clerk-Recorder's office managed three separate elections, each one with its own intricacies and level of importance.

Pioneering a New Election Process for Proposed Water District

The first series of elections were related to the potential formation of the [Paso Robles Basin Water District](#).

In 2016, the County of San Luis Obispo led the State in a new election process to deal with management of stressed water basins. For this election, State legislation (AB2453) was passed in 2014 to allow a hybrid composition of board members to be elected, should the water district in the Paso Robles Basin be formed.

Ours was the first county in the California to conduct an election like this, which is different from and much more complicated than typical elections. **Turnout was 63.9 percent for registered voters and 64.8 percent for landowners.** While voters ultimately rejected the formation and funding of the proposed water district on March 8, 2016, the County worked hard to ensure that this election process was well organized and well-governed.

For this election, registered voters had an opportunity to elect three of nine of the directors that would govern the Paso Robles Basin. The other six directors would have been elected by property owners in the district. To complicate things further, while the registered-voter director contest was one vote per voter, the landowner director election was tabulated according to the number of acres that each landowner owned.

The formation vote was just as complex, not just because it involved landowner voters, but because each voter was only allowed to cast one vote. In other words, the weighted value approach that was applied to the landowner director contests was not applied here. So a landowner might own multiple parcels and many, many acres, but he or she was only entitled to one vote in the matter of forming the basin water district.

Every effort was made to instruct voters who could have received up to three different ballots to put each ballot in the corresponding envelope (i.e. the blue ballot should have gone in the blue envelope, etc.). Lastly, the funding vote calling for a special tax measure going to registered voters for the matter of funding the \$950,000 annual costs of operating the water district.

Primary Election Breaks Records

The Presidential Primary Election held on June 7, 2016 set many records. Along with a **record-setting 155,804 registered voters for a primary**, the number of ballots cast also broke local records: **95,236 ballots were cast in the 2016 Presidential Primary Election**, the most ever for a primary election in San Luis Obispo County.

The Presidential Primary election is typically among the most costly to manage, since partisan ballots are required to be printed reflecting the political parties that are qualified by the Secretary of State.

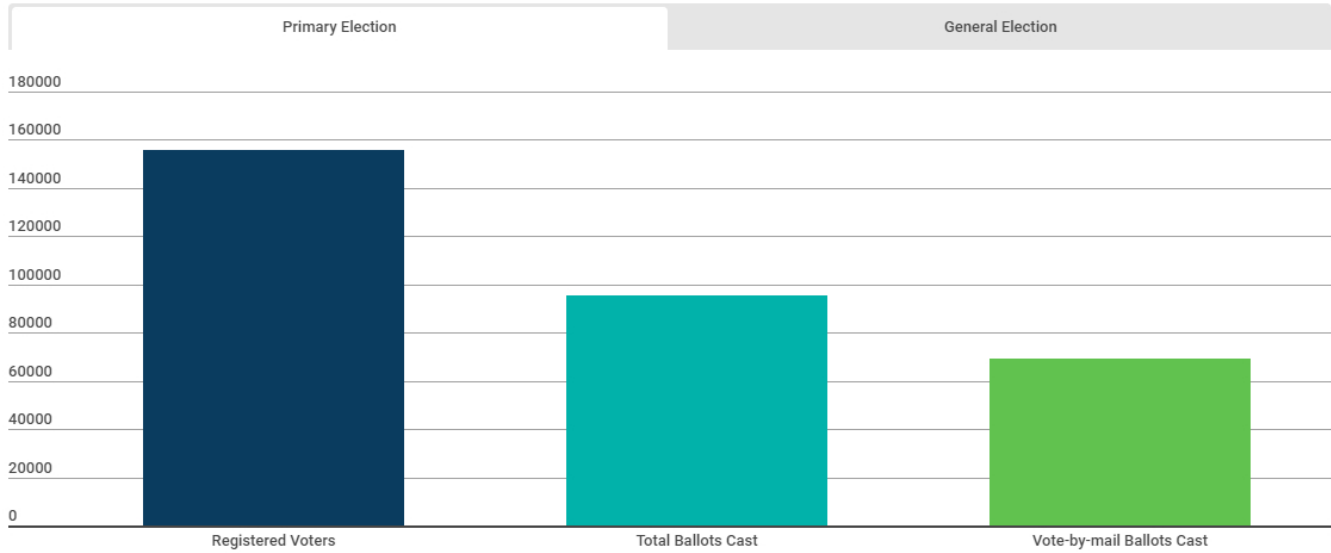
During this election, the County printed ballots for voters registered with the following parties: American Independent, Democratic, Green, Libertarian, Peace and

Freedom, and Republican. A separate nonpartisan ballot was printed for those with no party preference as well as additional party ballots for those political parties allowing these voters the option of voting in their Presidential primary contest.

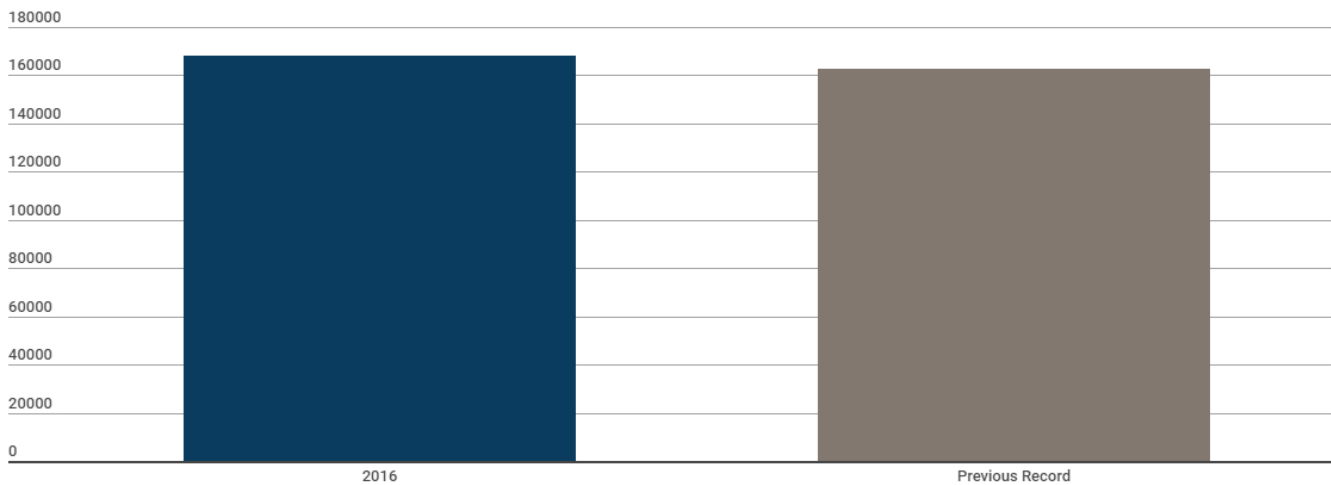
The voter turnout was 61.13 percent, which was once again higher than the statewide turnout of 47.72 percent. As in the past elections, voters who chose to vote by mail outnumbered those who went to the polls on Election Day. In fact, 69,128 voted by mail (72.6 percent of the voters), the highest number of vote-by-mail ballots cast during a Primary Election, while 26,108 voted at the polls (27.4 percent of the voters).

General Election Shatters Previous Records

2016 SLO County Elections



General Election - Registered Voter Record



Share

infogram

The general election broke many records for the County as well. An unprecedented number of registered voters – 168,257 – shattered the previous record of 162,459 in 2004 for a general election.

This election also saw the highest number of voter participation, with 139,685 ballots cast. A record-setting number of vote-by-mail ballots were sent to voters at 121,467, and the most vote-by-mail ballots were returned to the County election office – 99,638.

The General Election is among the largest since it consolidates all State and local jurisdictions' contests. The County conducted elections for 12 school district director contests, seven city mayor/council member races, nine special district director contests, 17 State propositions, five school bond measures, four city measures, and a countywide transportation tax measure.

The voter turnout was 83.02 percent, just shy of the County record at 83.14 percent in 2008 (161,256 registered voters in 2008), but the turnout was once again higher than the statewide turnout at 75.3 percent.

As in past elections, the voters who chose to vote by mail outnumbered those who went to the polls on Election Day. In fact, 98,691 voted by mail (70.65 percent of the voters), the highest number of vote-by-mail ballots cast during a General Election, while 40,994 voted at the polls (29.35 percent of the voters).



THOUSANDS RECEIVE PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN 2016

<< Previous article

Next article >>



Tens of thousands of people benefit from health and wellness services provided by the [County Health Agency's Behavioral Health Department](#) each year. Services range from prevention and education about substance use and mental health concerns to intensive outpatient and inpatient mental health treatment.

Various legislative, fiscal and regulatory changes in the State and County affected a variety of the County's behavioral health services last year. In 2016, The County [expanded addiction services](#), integrated behavioral health and physical health care, and found new opportunities for quality foster care and collaboration throughout the community.

In 2016, the County Behavioral Health Department **treated more than 2,500 individuals who struggle with addiction and risk issues that often lead to broken families and law enforcement involvement. The Behavioral Health Department also helped more than 5,400 people last year who suffered from mental illness lead more productive, independent, and high-quality lives.**

The County provides mental health care and other related services to some of the most at-risk and underserved individuals in our community, including people experiencing a mental health crisis and veterans.

More than 1,400 people experience a psychiatric crisis in the community were assisted by the County's Mental Health Evaluation Team in 2016. The County's Mental Health Evaluation Team provided mobile crisis response services to these individuals through a contract with Sierra Mental Wellness.

The evaluation team responded to hospital emergency departments, schools, clinics, and other agencies to evaluate individuals in need of urgent mental health care. The team continues to work closely with law enforcement agencies throughout the County for community response.

In 2016, the County also helped more than 150 veterans through its Veterans Outreach and Treatment programs. These grew out of initiatives launched as a result of the local [Mental Health Services Act plan](#).

The County helped veterans in 2016 by educating and informing veterans and their families at a variety of events throughout the region and, also, by sending a licensed mental health therapist to works with veterans at the Veterans Services Office, located in San Luis Obispo. The therapist also worked with the [Veterans Treatment Court](#) to assist veterans who have been charged with a crime. The Veterans Treatment Court enhances public safety and reduces the likelihood that veterans in the program will



return to a life of crime.

In 2016, 30 local veterans received treatment or other support services through the Veterans Treatment Court. They were connected with the Department of

Veterans Affairs benefits, received mental health treatment services and support, and

received appropriate sentencing and criminal charges that considered their treatment needs and the seriousness of their offense(s).

The County Health Agency will continue to work with the community to meet the mental and behavioral health needs of all who live in San Luis Obispo County.

A graphic consisting of several vertical text elements in different colors and orientations. From left to right: 'ANOR' in orange, 'OPTIMIS' in blue, 'UNHAPPY' in blue, 'GR' in black, 'ANXI' in orange, and 'TREATI' in green. The text is arranged in a way that suggests a sequence or a process.



PRODUCING A PARKS MASTER PLAN

<< Previous article

Next article >>



It is County Counsel's job to provide legal support and defend the thoughtful and difficult work of more than 100 County entities and departments.

For three years, County Counsel provided a significant amount of skill, knowledge and hard work defending the Nipomo Community Park Master Plan, all of which paid off in 2016 with a Superior Court ruling in the County's favor.

As with many County projects, a local community group challenged the Nipomo Community Park Master Plan in court. County Counsel defended the County in court and argued that the plan was in-line with the County General Plan, environmental issues were adequately addressed, and sufficient water was guaranteed for current and future park activities.

The Nipomo Community Park Master Plan serves as a guide for the management and eventual expansion of the activities at Nipomo Community Park, the only public park currently located in Nipomo. With this plan, the County set out to:

- consider and support active citizen input in the decision-making process
- provide a range of passive and active facilities and use areas to meet the recreational needs of the community
- maintain and upgrade existing recreational and community facilities and amenities
- effectively manage current and projected levels of park uses
- provide amenities that are aesthetically consistent with the regional character of the area
- provide a community recreation center within the unincorporated community of Nipomo
- incorporate infrastructure and circulation improvements to meet existing and estimated future motor vehicle transportation warrants
- apply adaptive management strategies, including the use of improved technology, to address new planning and management issues as they arise

County Parks and County Planning both spent a considerable amount of time and effort ensuring that the master plan was in the community's best interest and complied with all applicable laws and regulations.

After three long years of consideration, the local Superior Court concluded in 2016 that the Nipomo Community Park Master Plan is consistent with the County's General Plan, environmental concerns have been sufficiently considered, and the master plan does not and cannot require additional water.

By supporting and defending the County's work, the County Counsel's office helped to ensure that our community is safe, healthy, livable, prosperous, and well-governed.



PROTECTING THE LAND

<< Previous article

Next article >>

In 2016, the County continued to protect agricultural land from being converted to urban land and consumed by urban sprawl. The County does this through an Agricultural Preserve Program, as required by the [California Land Conservation Act of 1965](#) (AKA, The Williamson Act).

San Luis Obispo County has retained its rural ambiance in part due to the fact that more than one third of the land here is protected by the Williamson Act.

The County can legally restrict the use of land for agricultural and compatible uses for a minimum of 10 years only when a land conservation contract has been signed by both the County and the property owner (or lien holders, if any). Before landowners can enter into a land conservation contract with the County government, they must first establish their land as an agricultural preserve.



The Williamson Act

The Williamson Act (officially, the California Land Conservation Act of 1965) is a State law that provides relief of property tax to owners of farmland and open-space land in exchange for a 10-year agreement that the land will not be developed or otherwise converted to another use. The Williamson Act Program runs on an annual calendar year. The status of a property on January 1st of any given year determines whether it will receive property tax valuation as an enrolled property or not.



788,161

acres of land in San Luis Obispo County are under contract via the Williamson Act.

+ 4,322

acres were added in 2016

- 1,539

acres are expiring in the first quarter of 2017



2.1 million

total acres in the county



56,664

acres are in incorporated cities



38%

of unincorporated land in San Luis Obispo County is within the Williamson Act



LIBRARY RENOVATION BRIGHTENS, EXPANDS SLO BRANCH

[<< Previous article](#)

[Next article >>](#)



Library Renovation: SLO Branch

The County Library closed its San Luis Obispo branch for renovations in October 2016 to make way for an expanded modern facility filled with new public space and amenities for the community. The library's new technology-friendly design will come equipped with areas for patrons to charge mobile devices, self-checkout machines, and radio-frequency identification on all library materials to make checkout processes easier and faster.

Library support services are moving to the first floor and an automated book sorter is being installed to make room for 3,000 square feet of space on the third floor dedicated to adult nonfiction and reference materials. The new 13-bin automated material sorting system will have the capacity to sort 1,500 books per hour. **This move increases efficiency for library staff and opens up 1,816 square feet of extra space for public use.**






The first floor of the library will feature a café style ambiance with new books, music, movies, and seating to encourage interactions among visitors. Two new group rooms furnished with digital displays and seating for six people will be available for public use on this floor. One group room will feature a "creative lab" equipped with advanced editing software such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premiere, and recording equipment available for public use.

The Library's second floor will house the expanded children's area with 500 extra square feet of space dedicated to story time, brain-play and a craft lab for science, technology, engineering, art and math programs. The updated design brighten up the space, making it more open and inviting.

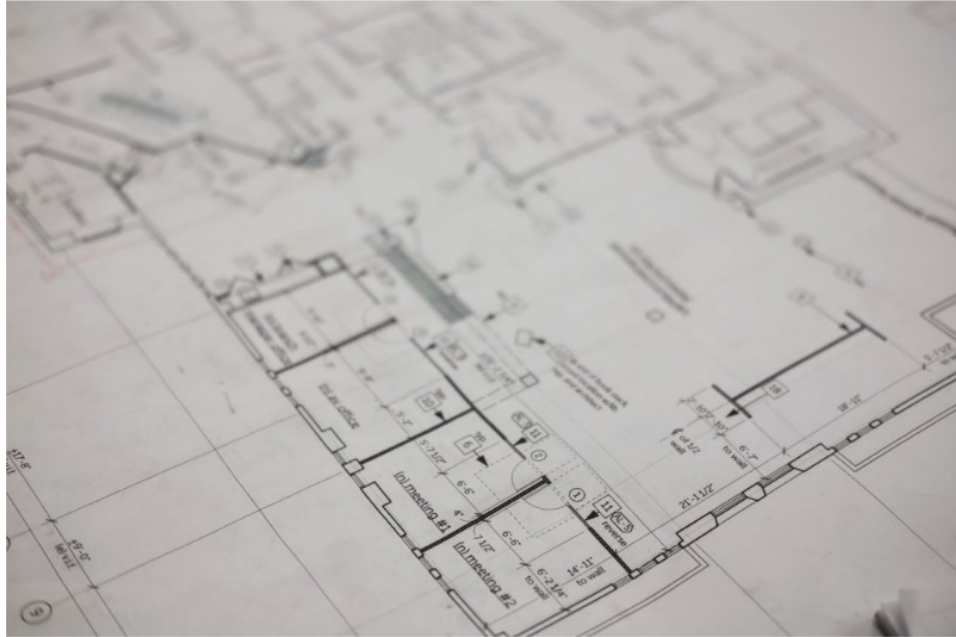
The family lounge in the children's area will have convenient family restrooms and space for parents to meet and work while children are browsing the collection. The first 700 square foot "teen space" will have movable furniture, games, and project work spaces to encourage socializing and interaction.

We hope to see everyone at our grand reopening in March 2017.

Updated Library, By the Numbers

-  1,816 sq. ft. will be converted from office and staff space to space available to the public
-  2 new public meeting rooms that seat up to 6 people
-  Children's area will expand from 1,700 sq. ft. to 2,600 sq. ft.
-  Storytime area expanded from 50 sq. ft. to 500 sq. ft.
-  First-ever dedicated Teen Space will be 700 sq. ft.

Library Renovation Photo Gallery



County library renovation



County library renovation



County library renovation



County library renovation



County library renovation



County library renovation



County library renovation





SERVING AS A MODEL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

[<< Previous article](#)

[Next section >>](#)

OUTSIDE SLO

WE TAKE HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE PERSONALLY

The [County Public Health Department](#) was recognized for developing a program that demonstrates exemplary service and models best practices in response to a local public need.

The County's [OutsideIn SLO: We Take Health and Climate Change Personally](#) campaign was one of 19 health department programs to receive the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) prestigious Model Practice Award at the 2016 Annual Conference .

"This award is evidence of our commitment to developing responsive and innovative public health programs that improve the health of local residents," said County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein.

OutsideIn SLO was a pilot program led by a partnership between the County Public Health Department and the California Department of Public Health. The program focused on a health education campaign designed to highlight the effect climate change has on our community's health.

This was the first formal campaign implemented by a local public health department's existing staff in California that communicated why climate change is a critical public health issue. The campaign focused on ways people can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time benefit their health and quality of life.

"Climate change is one of the most serious public health threats facing our nation," said Georges Benjamin, MD, executive director of the American Public Health Association. "Yet few Americans are aware of the very real consequences of climate change on the health of our communities, our families and our children."

The County used OutsideIn SLO as an innovative approach to addressing this issue. The State works with all local health jurisdictions on many different health issues and indicated that this is a unique program in California. The County's approach was based on health promotion and attempts to connect with people's values and emotions, but also to compel them to action.

The idea was simple: Have existing health educators, who are already working in the community, focus on how reducing climate change can also improve personal health.

The campaign had three broad goals:

1. Train staff, clients, and the community on the relationship between climate change and health
2. Motivate people to take action
3. Do it all on a shoestring budget

During this campaign, all of the following objectives were met:

- 20 presentations were made to more than 700 people, including the majority of public health staff and numerous community groups.
- Outreach was performed at 10 different farmer's markets.
- The campaign garnered coverage in eight different earned media pieces including newspaper articles and radio interviews. In addition, at least one post per week was featured on the Public Health Department's social media accounts.
- Three different public service announcements were aired, both in English and Spanish, in more than 1,500 spots on local radio stations.
- 1,100 Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program families received either individual or group education on climate change. This was integrated into typical nutrition curriculum, connecting the benefits of buying local, seasonal produce with active transportation and simple things clients could do at home.
- More than 1,700 hundred hours of staff time, collectively, were dedicated to the project, but because this was spread out between many staff members the burden

was not unreasonable. Other than paying a student intern to help coordinate the many program facets, little additional funding was necessary to make the program operational.


One of the biggest challenges the County encountered was moving from education to action. Once people were presented with educational information, they would often ask what they could do to help.


“All of us have a role and even the simplest things done collectively have an impact,” Dr. Borenstein said.





ECONOMY & JOBS

The County strives to keep our economy strong and viable and assure that all share in this economic prosperity. Click the stories below to discover some of the ways the County achieved this in 2016.

 [County Airport Increases Passengers](#)

 [SLO County Economic Data Profile](#)

 [Historic Deal Struck with PG&E Over Closure of Nuclear Power Plant](#)

 [Local Agriculture Industry Benefits from Certifications](#)

ABOUT

[About County Government](#)
[Executive Team](#)
[Board Chair Message](#)
[CAO Message](#)
[About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
[Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

[Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
[Financial Report >>](#)
[Crop Report >>](#)
[Commission on Aging >>](#)
[Assessor Reports >>](#)
[Civil Service Commission >>](#)
[Sheriff's Office >>](#)
[Social Services >>](#)



COUNTY INCREASES AIRLINE PASSENGERS IN 2016

[<< Previous section](#)

[Next article >>](#)



The San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport is an important component of the local transportation network. It enhances the movement of people, goods, and services to and from the outside world, allowing the economy to operate more effectively and efficiently. And the airport had an exciting year in 2016.



The County's new \$35.4 million airport terminal was under construction all year and is expected to be completed in 2017. This terminal project is primarily funded by two federal grants. The new terminal will enhance the customer experience by providing a spacious, modern facility and updated amenities including four gates, jet bridges,

pre- and post-security concessions, and an outdoor connector to a spacious passenger boarding lounge.

In addition to building a new terminal, the County announced in June that Alaska Airlines is bringing the local community daily nonstop flight service to and from Seattle, starting in April 2017.

This long-awaited connection to the Pacific Northwest will help our local businesses grow, increase tourism opportunities in San Luis Obispo County, and link our community into the vast Alaska Airlines network. Airport staff and local community partners worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this new carrier on board, and look forward to the new partnership. These new two-hour flights will also have more seats than other flights leaving San Luis Obispo.


This long-awaited new service will connect San Luis Obispo County to Alaska's network, increase accessibility to Seattle's tech industries, and carry visitors into the Central Coast's thriving wineries and beaches. All of this will, hopefully, further improve the area's economy.

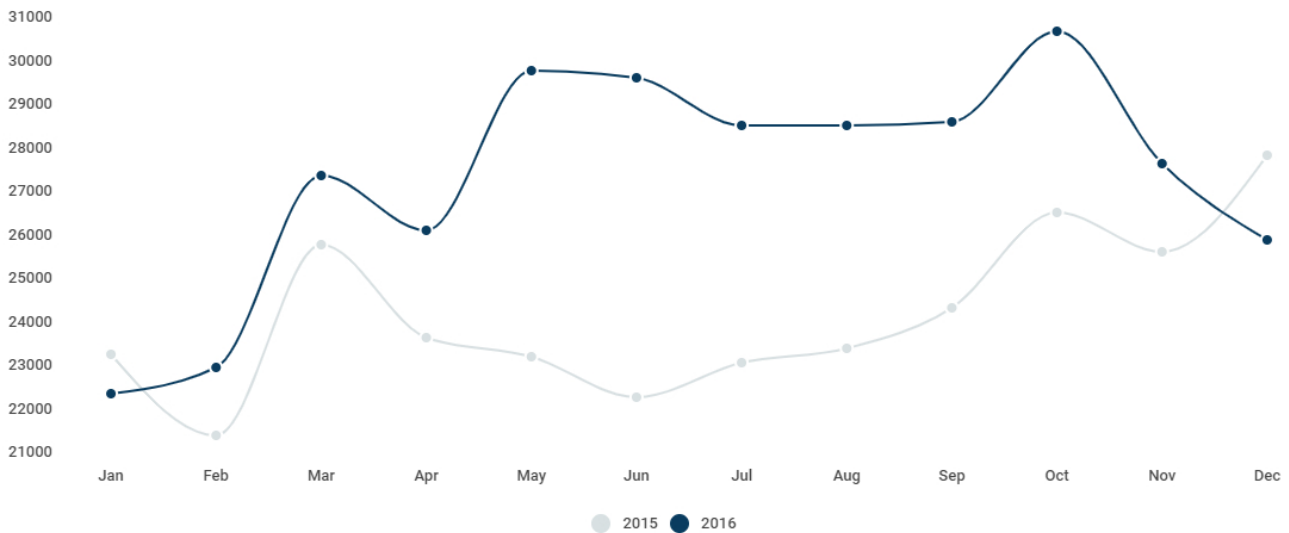
The airport also redesigned its website, www.sloairport.com, to provide the community with easier access to the travel information they need. It has a bevy of new features including a trip cost calculator, route mapper, and ticket purchasing link.

In 2016, the airport worked diligently toward its mission of delivering a safe and convenient airport experience, while exceeding customer expectations, and connecting our community to the world. The County operates and maintains the airport as a community service.

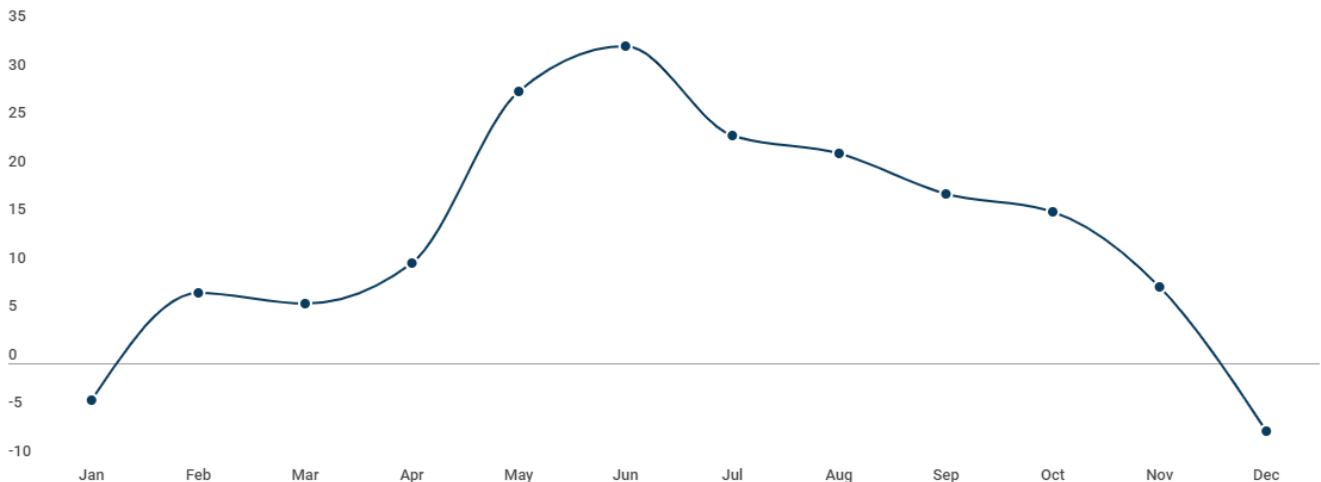
2016 Airline Passengers

 **330,241**
Total airline passengers in 2016

 **12.9%**
Increase in airline passengers compared to 2015



Percent Change from the Prior Year





ECONOMIC DATA PROFILE

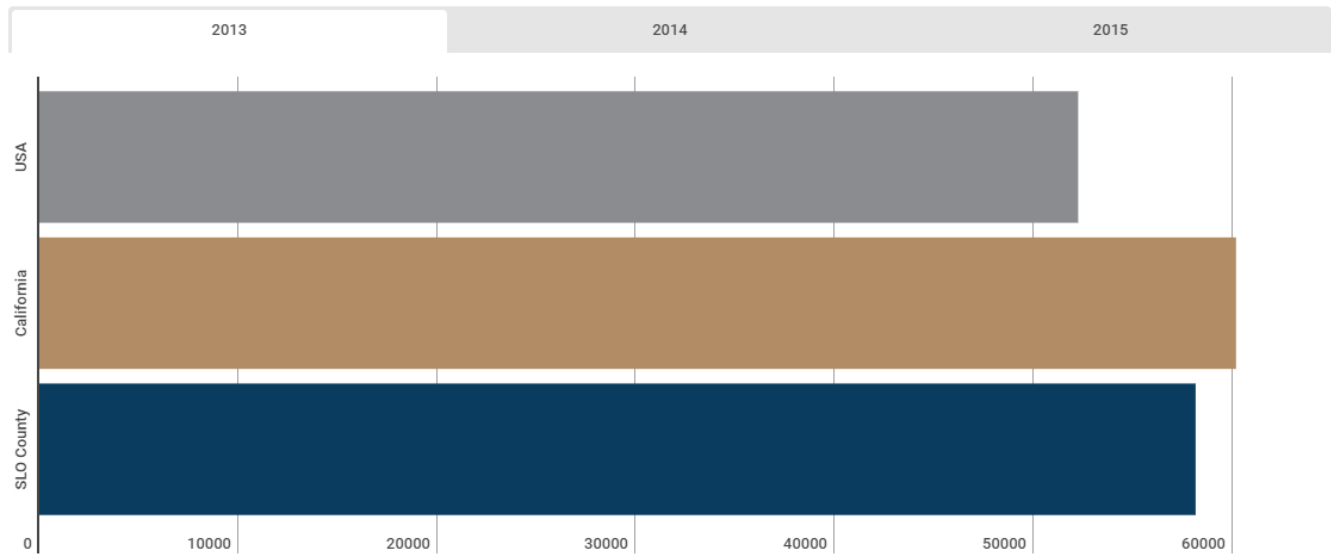
<< Previous article

Next article >>

SLO County's Economic Data Profile

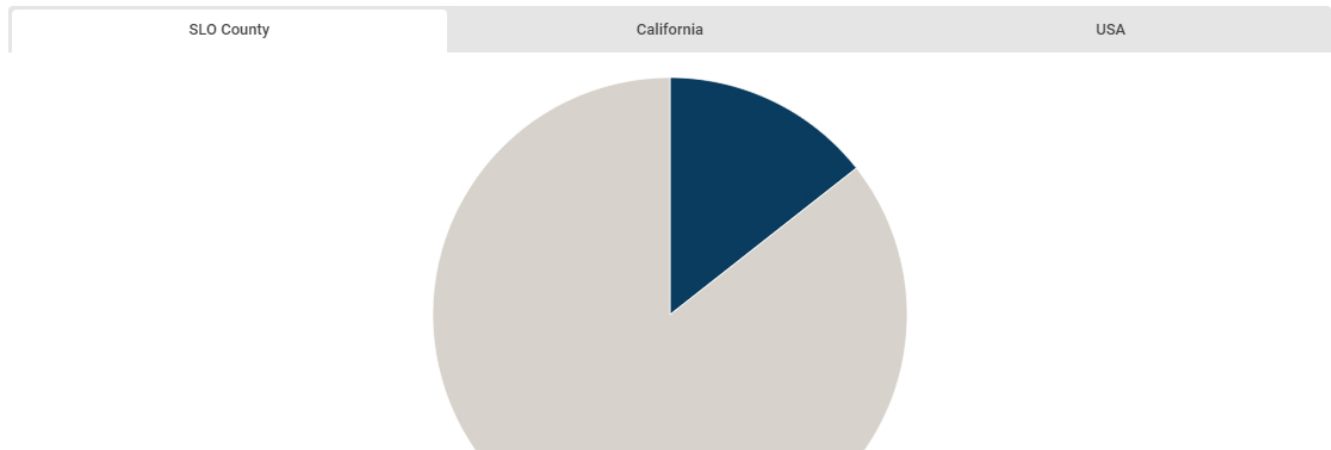
The following infographics are meant to provide a quick look at the County's economy. The County has a comprehensive [Economic Strategy](#), which is administered by the [Economic Vitality Corporation](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Median Household Income



Source: Census Bureau

People Living in Poverty





● Living In Poverty ● Living Above Poverty Line

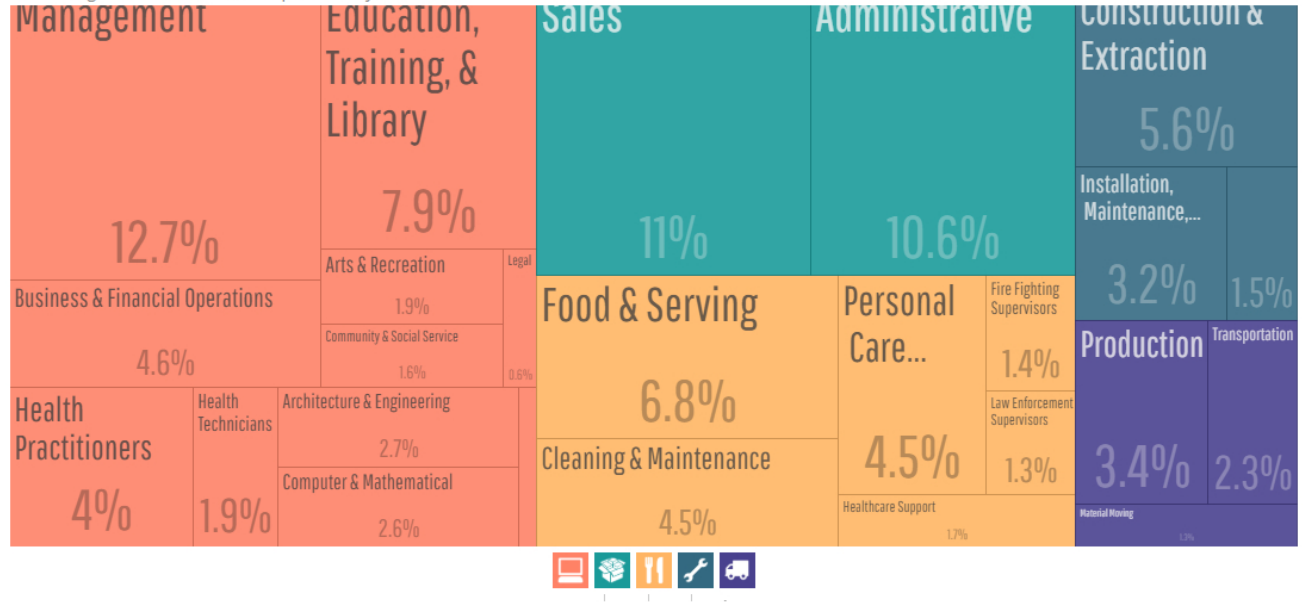
Source: Census Bureau Quick Facts

Share

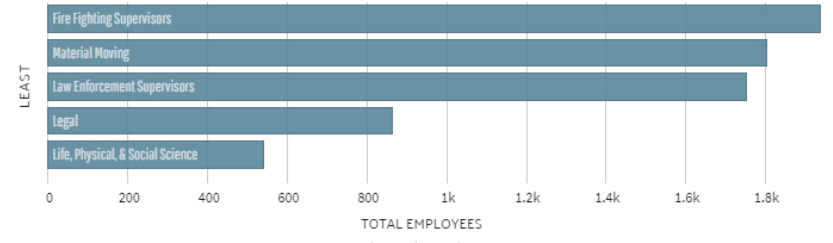
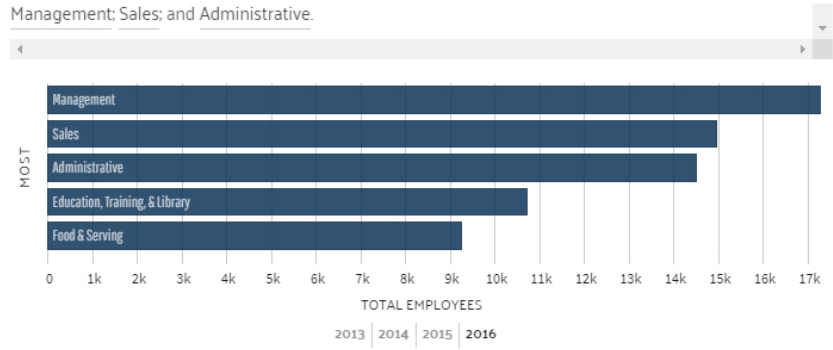
infogram

Occupations

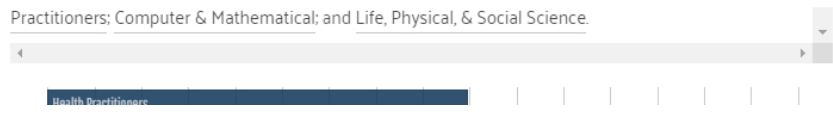
The following charts and tables were provided by DataUSA

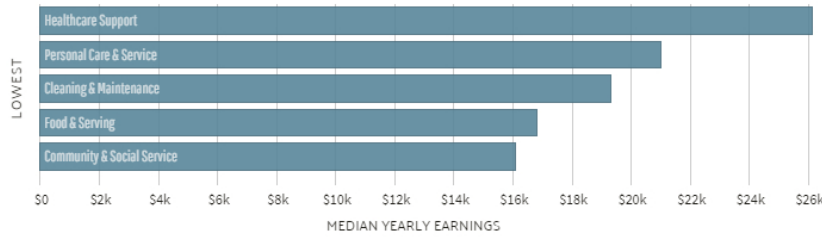
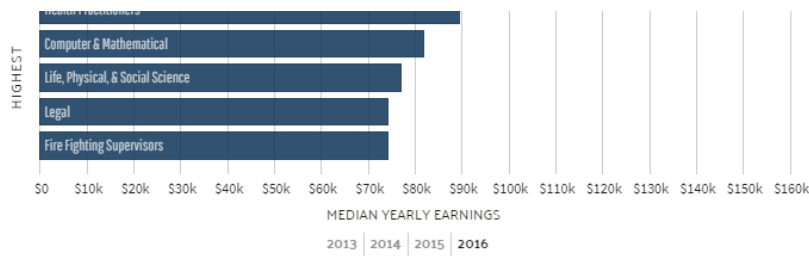


Most Common Jobs



Highest Paid Jobs





Economic Dashboard

The following infographic was designed by the Economic Vitality Corporation to provide a quick look at the economy of San Luis Obispo County.

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR
JOBS & THE ECONOMY

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

California
Business
Roundtable



SPONSOR

Dignity Health™



LEAD SPONSOR


SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Data Archives: 2018 Quarter 2

Methodology & Data Sources

EVC
ECONOMIC VITALITY CORP.

<p>PRODUCTIVITY</p>	<p>GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT 2016</p> <p>\$14.3bil</p> <p>▲ 1.7% from 2015</p>	<p>UNEMPLOYMENT RATE APRIL 2018</p> <p>2.6%</p> <p>▼ -10.34% points from April 2017</p>	<p>PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS Q3 2017</p> <p>97.5k</p> <p>▼ -0.3% from Q3 2016</p>
	<p>NEW BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS Q1 2017</p> <p>377</p> <p>▲ 47.8% from Q1 2016</p>	<p>QUARTERLY TAXABLE SALES Q4 2016</p> <p>\$1.3bil</p> <p>▼ -2.7% from Q4 2015</p>	<p>LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION APRIL 2018</p> <p>61.6%</p> <p>▼ -0.645% from March 2018</p>
	<p>AVERAGE HOME PRICE +/- CA AVERAGE Q4 2017</p> <p>-1.0%</p> <p>▼ -200% from Q3 2017</p>	<p>AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE Q3 2017</p> <p>\$44.7k</p> <p>▼ -1.1% from Q3 2016</p>	<p>GASOLINE PER GALLON MAY 2018</p> <p>\$3.85</p> <p>▲ 3.78% from April 2018</p>
	<p>AIRPORT</p>	<p>NEW RESIDENTIAL</p>	<p>NEW NON RESIDENTIAL</p>

<p>QUALITY OF LIFE</p>	<p>AIRPORT PASSENGERS Q2 2018</p> <p>129.5k</p> <p>▲ 20.5% from Q2 2017</p>	<p>NEW RESIDENTIAL PERMITS: COUNT Q1 2018</p> <p>126</p> <p>▼ -57.718% from Q1 2017</p>	<p>NEW NONRESIDENTIAL PERMITS: VALUE Q1 2018</p> <p>\$31.1mil</p> <p>▼ -6.62% from Q1 2017</p>
<p>\$</p> <p>INDUSTRY CLUSTERS</p>	<p>BUILDING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION Q3 2017</p> <p>9,646 No. of Employees ▲ 1.7% from Q3 2016</p> <p>\$57,785 Avg. Annual Wage ▼ -0.2% from Q3 2016</p>	<p>HEALTH SERVICES Q3 2017</p> <p>15,401 No. of Employees ▲ 1.4% from Q3 2016</p> <p>\$48,352 Avg. Annual Wage ▼ -1.3% from Q3 2016</p>	<p>KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION Q3 2017</p> <p>7,679 No. of Employees ▼ -0.8% from Q3 2016</p> <p>\$62,185 Avg. Annual Wage ▲ 0.8% from Q3 2016</p>
	<p>SPECIALIZED MANUFACTURING Q3 2017</p> <p>3,588 No. of Employees ▲ 0.9% from Q3 2016</p> <p>\$57,475 Avg. Annual Wage ▼ -0.6% from Q3 2016</p>	<p>UNIQUELY SLO Q3 2017</p> <p>23,145 No. of Employees ▲ 1.6% from Q3 2016</p> <p>\$24,996 Avg. Annual Wage ▼ -0.2% from Q3 2016</p>	<p>ENERGY Q3 2017</p> <p>2,375 No. of Employees ▼ -1.6% from Q3 2016</p> <p>\$138,875 Avg. Annual Wage ▼ -1% from Q3 2016</p>
<p></p> <p>WORKFORCE PREPAREDNESS</p>	<p>K-12 PROFICIENCY: MATH 2017</p> <p>43.0%</p> <p>1st out of 58 Counties</p>	<p>K-12 PROFICIENCY: ENGLISH 2017</p> <p>55.0%</p> <p>▲ 1st out of 58 Counties</p>	<p>HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE 2016</p> <p>4.0%</p> <p>▼ 1st out of 58 Counties</p>
	<p>COLLEGE PREPARED STUDENTS: MATH 2014</p> <p>12.0%</p> <p>15th out of 58 Counties</p>	<p>COLLEGE PREPARED STUDENTS: ENGLISH 2014</p> <p>32.0%</p> <p>12th out of 58 Counties</p>	<p>AGE 25+ WITH COLLEGE DEGREES AND ABOVE 2016</p> <p>34.1%</p> <p>▲ 3.3% from 2015</p>



COUNTY WORKS TO MITIGATE IMPACT OF PENDING DIABLO CLOSURE

<< Previous article

Next article >>



In 2016, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) [announced its plans to close Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant by 2025](#).

To ease the local impacts of the impending closure, the County worked with the San Luis Coastal Unified School District (SLCUSD) and a local Coalition of Cities to [reach a multi-million dollar settlement agreement](#) with PG&E that addresses the impacts the closure will have on the health, safety and financial security of the people of San Luis Obispo County.

If the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approves the agreement in 2017, the community will receive \$122.5 million to \$147.5 million over several years to reduce impacts on essential public services, the local economy, and offsite emergency planning efforts until the plant is fully decommissioned.

"PG&E is a valued community partner and its efforts to negotiate with us and address our major concerns related to the plant's closure further confirms that PG&E cares about the future of our community," said [2016 Board of Supervisors Chairperson and District 4 Supervisor Lynn Compton](#).

The County served as the lead agency for the local area in negotiating the overall settlement agreement with PG&E. The agreement has four parts, which include:

1. A **\$75 million Essential Services Mitigation Fund** to offset the potential negative impacts to essential public services provided to the community. This will be distributed to the County in nine equal annual installments through 2025 and the County will redistribute the funds to 71 local agencies whose budgets are impacted by the inevitable decrease in unitary tax funding from the power plant. The SLCUSD will receive the bulk of this funding.
2. A **\$10 million Economic Development Fund** to ease the local economic impacts of the plant's closure. The Coalition of Cities will receive \$5.76 million, the County will receive \$3.84 million, and the remaining \$400,000 will be allocated for regional economic development activities. The cities receiving portions of the fund include San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles and Pismo Beach. Each agency will issue an annual report, which describes how the funds are used and assesses the resulting economic development measures or programs. The reports will be available to PG&E, the CPUC and the public.
3. Continued **funding of offsite community and local emergency planning** efforts until all spent fuel is in dry cask storage and the two nuclear reactors are fully decommissioned. Total funding in this area could range between \$37.5 million and \$62.5 million over the course of 15 to 25 years.
4. An **agreement from PG&E** that it will not take actions or make decisions on the re-use or sale of land surrounding the power plant, including Wild Cherry Canyon, until PG&E has completed a site-specific decommissioning plan with input from the community.

"The people of San Luis Obispo County and the future of our community have been our top concerns. We will continue to work with PG&E and other local community partners to protect the public health, safety and economic security of the communities we serve," said [County Administrative Officer Dan Buckshi](#).

In June 2016, PG&E revealed its plans to close Diablo Canyon by 2025 in a joint proposal with seven labor and environmental organizations. Soon after, the County intervened in the relevant rate hearing cases before the CPUC, which has the authority to approve or deny the joint proposal.

As an intervener, the County identified several points that served as the framework for the community's successful negotiations with PG&E. The County worked closely with PG&E, the SLCUSD and the Coalition of Cities during the negotiation process, and consulted with the State Board of Equalization and industry experts.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the agreement in December 2016 and submitted it to the CPUC as a modification to PG&E's original joint proposal.

"This groundbreaking agreement will soften the significant impact our community will feel once Diablo Canyon is no longer here," said 2016 County Board Vice Chair and District 3 Supervisor Adam Hill. "There is still a difficult road ahead, but if we continue to work together, we will shape a prosperous future for our community. This collaborative effort is something we can all be proud of."

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE





LOCAL AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY BENEFITS FROM INSPECTIONS

<< Previous article

Next section >>

Local agricultural producers throughout San Luis Obispo County routinely provide healthy and abundant agricultural products, which are enjoyed not only by San Luis Obispo County residents but also by consumers around the nation and the world. In 2016, nursery plants, vegetables, seeds, and cut flowers grown in the county were in high demand on a global scale.

By inspecting outgoing shipments, County employees helped growers certify agricultural products that were exported to places around the world. Conversely, certain plant shipments of foreign origin arriving into San Luis Obispo County were also routinely inspected by County staff. These inspections protect our local agriculture and environment from the inadvertent introduction of harmful insects and plant diseases that may hitchhike in shipments.

In fiscal year 2015-16, County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures issued 3,453 export certificates for shipments sent to 48 foreign countries and 156 certificates for shipments sent throughout the United States. Shippers are required to obtain export certificates that attest shipments meet pest cleanliness standards set forth by the importing state or country. This ensures that insect pests or plant diseases of concern to the receivers are not inadvertently sent with the shipments.



A County employee inspects a shipment of broccoli bound for Taiwan.

Routine inspections by staff make it possible for residents in countries such as Taiwan, Japan, Canada, Mexico, and many other destinations to enjoy the fruits of the labor of San Luis Obispo County's farmers and the bountiful broccoli, head lettuce, Brussels sprouts, bell peppers, cauliflower, kale and many other commodities they produce.

By the numbers


- 🌟 3,453 certificates issued for foreign bound shipments
- 🌐 48 foreign countries received certified shipments
- 🚚 156 certificated issued for domestic – USA bound shipments
- 🇺🇸 14 states received certified shipments
- 🏆 Top 4 shipment destination countries
 1. Canada
 2. Japan
 3. Taiwan
 4. Mexico
- 🏆 Top 3 shipment destination in USA:
 1. Hawaii
 2. Texas
 3. Puerto Rico





TECH SAVVY PUBLIC SERVICE

The County strives to provide high-quality, results-oriented services that are responsive to community desires. As technology advances, so do public services.


Here are some of the ways the County expanded its services using technology in 2016.


 [Community Celebrates Completion of Los Osos Water Recycling Facility](#)

 [Expanding Juvenile Hall for SLO County Youth](#)

 [Property Tax System Becomes Model for Others](#)

 [Public Records Now Available Online](#)

 [Newer, Faster, Better Public Health Lab](#)

 [New Tool Allows for More Accurate DUI Tests](#)

ABOUT

- [About County Government](#)
- [Executive Team](#)
- [Board Chair Message](#)
- [CAO Message](#)
- [About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

- What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
- [Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

- [Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
- [Financial Report >>](#)
- [Crop Report >>](#)
- [Commission on Aging >>](#)
- [Assessor Reports >>](#)
- [Civil Service Commission >>](#)
- [Sheriff's Office >>](#)
- [Social Services >>](#)



COMMUNITY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF LOS OSOS WATER RECYCLING FACILITY

<< Previous section

Next article >>



After 10 years of planning and construction, the Los Osos Water Recycling Facility was completed in 2016 and the community gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion in April.

This project is a model for sustainable water reuse and conservation and includes **almost 50 miles of pipelines and a water recycling facility capable of processing 1.2 million gallons of water per day for the community of Los Osos.**

The small town of Los Osos historically lacked a sewer system and instead used septic systems for wastewater treatment and disposal. Over time, this resulted in pollution of the Morro Bay estuary and the community's groundwater basin, which is their sole source of drinking water.

To address environmental concerns, the sewer project also includes a long-term habitat management program to restore habitats in 100 acres throughout Los Osos.

Prior to construction, Los Osos property owners overwhelmingly approved the project costs through Proposition 218 votes. While the brand new sewer system is a significant expense, **costs were reduced by \$22 million thanks to the County's ability to secure grant funding and two long-term, subsidized, low-interest loans** (2 percent for 30 years and 2.6 percent for 40 years).

All property owners serviced by this new wastewater system benefit from these savings, which are applied to the **overall project costs for assessments and service charges**. In addition, several options for financial assistance for low-income residents are available, thanks to existing State and Federal programs and newly developed County programs.

The entire community was invited to the new water recycling facility for a grand opening in April 2016, which began with a dedication ceremony, followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and a reception with cake and refreshments. Attendees included members of the public; County District Supervisors; County staff; news media; Congresswoman Lois Capps; and representatives from California State Senator Bill Monning's office, U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein's office, and the U.S. Department of



Construction of Los Osos water pipelines.

Agriculture. All who attended were able to take a tour of the facility.

“This is a major milestone for the Los Osos community and for the County of San Luis Obispo,” said County District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson. “We are thrilled to move forward and keep the community and environment safe and healthy well into the future. This project was well worth the wait.”

Also in 2016, the 12-month process of connecting homes and businesses to the new sewer system began. By April 2016, about 5,000 homes and businesses were connected, serving a population of 12,000 residents. **Wastewater in this service area is now being recycled for beneficial reuse and returned to the community for irrigation or percolation into the groundwater basin.**

The County will continue to work with Los Osos residents and businesses to evaluate and develop the wastewater treatment system program, respecting community preferences and promoting participatory government, while also addressing individual affordability challenges to the greatest extent possible.

Share the Knowledge





PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM BECOMES MODEL FOR OTHERS

<< Previous article

Next article >>



The County greatly enhanced its ability to keep pace with evolving technology and provide better service to the public by decommissioning its mainframe system in 2016.

In the summer, the County shut down its bulky 43-year-old mainframe computer system, replacing it completely with a new modern Microsoft-Windows based platform. This new platform houses important applications used every day by the public, including the County's property tax system, which allows people to view and pay their property taxes online.

In fact, the County became one of the first agencies in the state of California to successfully and cost-effectively move its property tax system off of an antiquated mainframe computer system to a new modern system.

The County benefits from this new system in a variety of ways, including:

- **Reduced maintenance and operating costs.** Retiring the mainframe resulted in an immediate annual cost savings of more than \$580,000 by eliminating software licensing and hardware maintenance costs.
- **Improved development tools.** It frees up County programmers' time to work on important technologies and applications that will help the County better serve the public.
- **Enhanced access to and analysis of data using a modern platform.** It allows for better integration with other modern systems used by the County.
- **Increased flexibility to adapt to future related software changes as needed by the affected departments.** Because the data in the new system is much more accessible, it can be more easily maintained and future developments or improvements will be easier to accomplish.

The County's mainframe system was developed 43 years ago with technology that was cutting edge at that time, and the County realized significant benefits from its use over the years. In fact, the County's first e-mail system was hosted on the mainframe.

Until recently, the mainframe was the only computer platform capable of handling the large volume of computer processing tasks required by the County's many information systems.

"We pioneered a new approach to successfully retire an old mainframe platform while safeguarding four decades worth of business rules," said County IT Director Daniel Milei. "Many other counties have similar challenges with their aging mainframes, and anxiously watched to see how we did with this project. Our project became a model for other counties as we empowered our delivery teams, encouraged collaboration across all parties, and had faith in our people."

Ultimately, the mainframe was at the end of its useful life. If the County had kept the system, it would have resulted in significant hardware replacement costs.

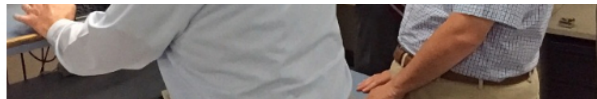


Years prior, as part of a [strategic plan](#), the County IT Department recommended retiring the mainframe. In December 2012, the County [entered into a contract with a major technology firm](#) to migrate the County's property tax system from the mainframe to a Microsoft Windows platform.

In June 2013, the project began and a dedicated team made up of employees from the County Assessor's, Auditor-Controller/Tax Collector's, and IT departments was formed to keep the project on track. The IT department managed the project and worked directly with the hired technology firm to successfully migrating the property tax system.

The success of the project involved hard work and dedication. Additionally the project had a supportive steering committee, excellent cooperation between departments, a strong technical team, dedicated departmental resources, and a vendor committed to the project's success.

The new property tax system went live in April 2016.



County workers celebrated the decommissioning of its decades-old mainframe system in 2016.



PUBLIC RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

<< Previous article

Next article >>



Reviewing important official records in San Luis Obispo County is easier than ever before. Anyone can now [access and purchase official records online](#) thanks to a new web-based portal that includes public records dating back to 2001.

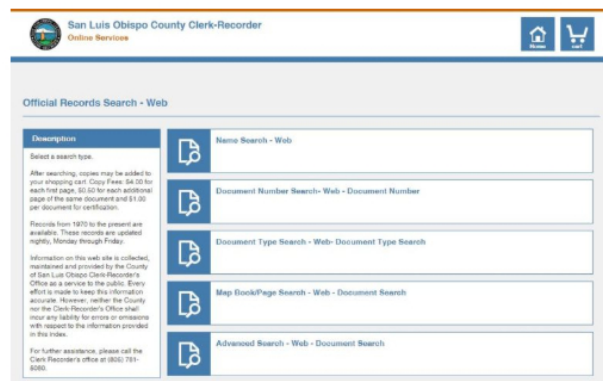
The new system, from Tyler Technologies, **allows the County of San Luis Obispo to govern more effectively by using modern technology, saving paper, and improving customer service.**

Prior to 2016, the public could only access an index of records online, but this provided no ability to purchase records.

People can now find and purchase copies of public documents, such as deeds, liens, and other property records, using the County's new web-based portal, which replaced expensive and outdated computer technology. The new system integrates County clerk-related functions, recordings, cashing and imaging.

The new system also eliminates the need for paper forms, allowing the customer to complete and submit orders online or at the self-service kiosk in the Clerk-Recorder's Office.

The project originally began in June 2015, but most of the implementation took place over a six-week period to be in full production prior to the start of the 2016 election cycle. It officially went live in February 2016.



Click the above image to search for records online.

Share the Knowledge





NEWER, FASTER, BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH LAB

[<< Previous article](#)

[Next article >>](#)



The [County Public Health Laboratory](#) added three state-of-the-art testing systems in 2016 that almost immediately helped protect the public's health and increased the County's efficiency in detecting and treating infectious diseases.

The new testing systems were put to good use quickly. Within days of installing a system capable of detecting and analyzing certain infectious diseases, the Public Health Laboratory was tasked with identifying the source and organism causing a large outbreak of suspected foodborne illnesses in San Luis Obispo County—an unfortunate, but not unusual occurrence.

Before acquiring the new equipment, this type of molecular testing would have taken highly-trained microbiologists at least two days to produce results, but the new equipment produced results in about an hour and required only a few minutes of staff time.

Faster identification of the organism that caused the illness meant that the County Public Health Department was able to intervene days earlier and prevent many more people from getting sick. This produced faster results that better supported patients and public health while also reducing staff time from days to minutes, which substantially reduced costs and saved taxpayers some money.

Another new system in the County Public Health Laboratory also proved valuable soon after installation in 2016. This new equipment offers a significant advantage during a large outbreak of an infectious disease by extracting DNA from multiple specimens simultaneously. In January 2016, this technology enabled one County scientist to test as many as 300 specimens for a specific strain of influenza circulating in San Luis Obispo County.

The lab also installed a new benchtop robot in 2016 that extracts DNA and tests for tuberculosis in just two hours. Besides improving testing efficiency in the lab, this new equipment detected a rare form of multiple-drug-resistant tuberculosis in SLO County.

Without this state-of-the-art equipment, the County Public Health Laboratory would have had to send the specimen to a State lab for testing. In the few days it would have taken to get definitive results from the State, the individual with multiple-drug-resistant tuberculosis could have potentially infected others in the community or traveled elsewhere, never knowing they carried this dangerous infectious disease.

The County Public Health Laboratory performs clinical, environmental, food, and animal testing services for a variety of clients, but it is also responsible for specialized testing services and responding quickly in the event of a public health emergency.

These technological upgrades expanded local testing capabilities, improved staff efficiency, provided results much faster, improved individual patient care, and mitigated public health risks in 2016.



NEW TOOL ALLOWS FOR MORE ACCURATE DUI TESTS

<< Previous article

Next section >>



In 2016, the County Sheriff's Office was awarded a \$94,772 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety for a year-long program aimed at preventing DUI-related deaths and injuries on our roadways through special enforcement and public awareness efforts.

According to the latest data, the number of alcohol-impaired driving deaths has remained virtually unchanged in California in the past four years. To reduce this, the state is working with local communities.

Using the State grant, the County will strengthen the accuracy and reliability of blood alcohol concentration testing with a state-of-the-art tool, supplies to analyze blood alcohol levels, and a temporary increase in staffing during the grant period.

The County Sheriff's Office chose to take on the responsibility of managing the operation of the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) program in San Luis Obispo County in 2014.

As a result, the Sheriff's Forensic Alcohol Laboratory provides DUI blood sample testing to a variety of government agencies in the area, including:

- San Luis Obispo Police Department
- Paso Robles Police Department
- Arroyo Grande Police Department
- Atascadero Police Department
- Morro Bay Police Department
- Grover Beach Police Department
- Pismo Beach Police Department
- Both Templeton and San Luis Obispo Highway Patrol divisions
- State Parks and Recreation in SLO County

Each of these agencies depends on the accuracy and reliability of the the Sheriff's lab to assist in reducing the number of deaths and injuries attributable to alcohol and drug involvement.

Court-Ordered DUI Programs

At the same time, the [County Health Agency](#) provides services at no cost to the taxpayer to those who need to fulfill court-ordered requirements stemming from penalties related to a DUI. This program is mandated by the State to be self-supported through fees charged to those who have been convicted of a DUI, rather than County General Fund dollars.

For more than two decades, the County has conducted its court-ordered [Driving Under the Influence Programs](#) and is one of the few County governments in California to conduct these types of programs. About 2,300 participants are enrolled each year.

Through the Health Agency, the County's DUI programs are 20 percent more effective in reducing repeat DUI-related offenses than the State average.

Share the Knowledge





PUBLIC SAFETY

The County strives to create a community where all people have a sense of security and well being, crime is controlled, fire and rescue response is timely, and roads are safe. Here are some ways we achieved that in 2016.

Battling Modern-Day Slavery

Chimney Fire Response

County Receives High Marks on FEMA Nuclear Emergency

Curbing Prescription Drug Abuse

Gang Task Force Ramps Up Efforts

Sheriff's Year in Review

ABOUT

- [About County Government](#)
- [Executive Team](#)
- [Board Chair Message](#)
- [CAO Message](#)
- [About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

- What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
- [Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

- [Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
- [Financial Report >>](#)
- [Crop Report >>](#)
- [Commission on Aging >>](#)
- [Assessor Reports >>](#)
- [Civil Service Commission >>](#)
- [Sheriff's Office >>](#)
- [Social Services >>](#)



BATTLING MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

<< Previous section

Next article >>



It seems that no other topic grabbed the attention of California prosecutors, law enforcement, and the legislature in 2016 like the tragic subject of human trafficking. No less than 24 bills related to human trafficking were introduced in the state legislature last year.

Unfortunately, San Luis Obispo County is not immune to the heartbreak of human trafficking. Recognizing the importance and scope of the problem, the County Human Trafficking Task Force was hard at work battling the problem.

Among law enforcement agencies, human trafficking is considered a modern-day form of slavery and includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Unfortunately, San Luis Obispo County is a natural corridor for human trafficking activities between San Diego/Los Angeles and San Francisco, according to the County District Attorney's Office, and has also been the scene of human trafficking activities originating in the California Central Valley.

"The fact that our County is a tourist destination with a large number of hotels contributes to an environment conducive to sex trafficking, while the agricultural nature of the County makes it prone to labor trafficking," said County Assistant District Attorney Lee Cunningham.

California has been identified by the FBI as one of the nation's Top 4 destination states for human trafficking and its victims. One of the most detailed [studies of sex trafficking](#) was conducted and published in 2016 by Point Loma Nazarene University and the University of San Diego. It looked specifically at the nature and extent of gang involvement in sex trafficking in San Diego County.

The study concluded that human trafficking sex victims were primarily American, with an average age of entry into the sex trade of 16. It was estimated to be an \$810 million business in San Diego County in 2013.

Efforts in 2016 to Reduce Human Trafficking in SLO County

The County District Attorney's office successfully tried and obtained convictions of two human traffickers – [Richard Brooks](#) and [Oscar Higueros](#). Brooks was sentenced to 61 years, eight months in state prison, while Higueros was sentenced to 167 years, eight months, plus 15 years to life in state prison. As of this report, the trafficking case of *People v. Anaya & Morales* is currently pending trial in San Luis Obispo Superior Court.

The County Human Trafficking Task Force began the year with the County Board of Supervisors, which proclaimed January 2016 as "Human Trafficking Awareness Month" in SLO County.

In early 2016, the task force's Legislation Committee drafted a proposal to require a "tiered" sex offender registration of sex purchasers who have been convicted of Penal Code § 647(b) (prostitution) when they knew, or should have known, that the other participant was a minor victim of human trafficking.

Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian authored the bill, AB 1912, which unfortunately failed committee passage. A more comprehensive “tiered” sex offender registration plan is likely to be introduced in a future legislative session, and County Human Trafficking Task Force aims to make the AB 1912 plan a part of that effort.

Task force officials hope to reduce the demand for sex purchasing as public awareness of sex purchasers who knowingly exploit minor trafficking victims increases.

Also in 2016, task force members participated in one of several regional [H.E.A.T.Watch](#) summits held in California. H.E.A.T.Watch is a research institute, founded by Alameda District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, seeking to accurately gauge the scope and nature of human trafficking in California and identify “best practices” in dealing with the problem. Members of the County of San Luis Obispo’s Human Trafficking Task Force presented at the February 2016 summit held in Fresno.

About the SLO County Human Trafficking Task Force

County District Attorney Dan Dow was instrumental in creating the County Human Trafficking Task Force in January 2015 with a mission to:

- Prevent and combat human trafficking through education;
- Protect and assist victims with full respect for their human rights through identification;
- Promote cooperation among law enforcement and community organizations by allocating resources to meet these objectives.

To further this mission, the task force formed six standing committees:

- Education/Outreach
- Funding/Data Collection
- Law Enforcement
- Housing
- Legislative
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (this was an existing group that merged with the County’s task force in 2016).

The task force continues to educate and train others about human trafficking crimes, wherever and whenever requested. At the same time, its Housing Committee continues to grapple with the urgent need for adequate emergency and short-term housing for human trafficking victims.

The County Human Trafficking Task Force is hosted and chaired by the District Attorney’s office. The diverse group, made up of both public and private agencies and organizations, meets monthly. A variety of organizations have representatives on the task force, including:

- County Probation Department
- County Parks & Recreation
- Cuesta College and Cal Poly police departments
- County Office of Education
- County Department of Social Services
- County Public Health Department
- County Behavioral Health Department
- County District Attorney’s office
- County Sheriff’s Office
- California Highway Patrol
- State Parole
- FBI
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- Department of Homeland Security
- French Hospital
- Paso Robles schools
- Community Health Centers
- numerous non-profit groups, such as RISE, Central Coast Freedom Network, North County Abolitionists, the Women’s Shelter, Community Action Partnership, Runaway Girl, Central Coast Dream Center, Cal Poly Safer, and Cal Poly Health Services.

If you are interested in displaying a human trafficking poster, please contact the District Attorney’s Victim/Witness Director Diana McPartlan at (805) 781-5821.

To receive assistance or report a suspected instance of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733). You may also contact your local law enforcement, call Crime Stoppers at 544-STOP, or text SLOTIPS plus your message to Crimes (274637).

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE





CHIMNEY FIRE RESPONSE

<< Previous article

Next article >>



In August 2016, San Luis Obispo County was devastated by what came to be known as the Chimney Fire. By the time it was contained in September 2016, it had burned more than 46,000 acres.

When people think of the government’s response to wildfires, they often think of the fire department, emergency services teams, and law enforcement. But there’s much more to a major response than that. In the case of the Chimney fire, there were 105 assisting agencies. At the same time, almost every County department responded or served people who were impacted by the fire in some way.

At the height of the fire, evacuation orders affected more than 5,500 people in northern areas of San Luis Obispo County, including Christmas Cove, Oak Shores, North Shore Boat and Ski, Laguna Vista, South Shore Village, Rancho Del Lago, Cal Shasta, Lake San Antonio, Sapaqua Valley and Bryson Hesperia.

Nearly 50 residences and 21 other minor structures were destroyed, but there was only one reported injury. There were no fatalities, and firefighters were able to prevent the fire from engulfing Hearst Castle, though it came within two miles of the historic site.

The fire started and worsened for a variety of reasons, according to County Fire officials. When the fire started, the County was in the midst of a five-year extreme drought, which led to extreme dry conditions. At the same time, the entire area affected by the fire hadn’t burned since the 1960s, which meant that there was a lot of brush to burn. Additionally, there was extremely dry air in the region at the time. All of these elements combined to create the perfect conditions for a long and wide burn.

However, the number of injuries, accidents, and claims for this complex incident was low considering the number of personnel assigned and the number of acres burned. This was a direct reflection of the dedication and professionalism of all personnel assigned to the task at hand.

Preserving Communications for County Response Teams

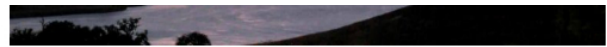
Just two days after the Chimney Fire started, the California Office of Emergency Services notified the County that the fire would most likely reach the County’s Rocky Butte communications site within the next week. Rocky Butte provides primary radio communications capabilities for the County Sheriff’s Office, County Fire Department, and other County radio systems for the North Coast and Nacimiento Lake area. Without this site, first responders in the area would have had poor to no radio coverage.

To address this serious issue, the County Information Technology team worked with Sheriff’s Office to identify Rocky Butte as critical infrastructure and requested the appropriate resources to protect it however possible.

Just four days after the blaze started, the County received another blow: commercial power service to Rocky Butte was going to be disconnected. The team had to



act quickly, starting the backup power generator that would have to hold for six days until commercial power was restored.



Soon, the Chimney Fire had made it to the Rocky Butte communications site. The County's IT team traveled to the site to assess the damage. When the assessment team approached the site, they came upon hundreds of fire personnel and dozens of engines and trucks protecting the area.

By the time the County IT team had arrived, the Chimney Fire had burned right up to the communications site. Every few minutes, aircraft flew overhead and dropped fire retardant to the left and right of the surrounding areas.

"The fire crews in the area did nothing short of an amazing job protecting (Rocky Butte)," said County Information Technology Supervisor Vahram Havandjian. "Santa Barbara County Fire engine E313 was at our site with a crew and water hoses pressurized and ready to keep any other small area fires at bay. We cannot express our gratitude and thanks for all the excellent work that went into protecting this critical facility. Losing the site would have cost the County over one million dollars. Even more importantly, loss of communications could endanger the lives of those fighting the fires and the livelihood of those people living in the affected areas."

Health Agency Response to the Chimney Fire

During the Chimney Fire, the County Health Agency managed public health and medical response activities.

The agency ensured environmental health and safety, provided support to mass care operations, collected and disseminated situational status information, provided mental health support to evacuees returning home, and provided health information to the public.

The Health Agency's response to the Chimney Fire was more comprehensive, particularly in environmental health activities, than in previous fire responses.

Here are just some of the activities the County Health Agency participated in during the Chimney Fire:

- Animal Services officers [assisted in evacuating animals](#) from properties in the affected area.
- Animal Services staff established a small animal housing and care area in conjunction with the American Red Cross evacuation shelter at Flamson Middle School.
- Public Health nurses and staff provided evacuated families at the shelter with diapers and other baby supplies as well as some children's clothing.
- Public Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein coordinated with the Air Pollution Control District to monitor air quality and issue guidance to at risk populations.
- The Public Health Department provided guidance online and delivered important fact sheets to residents of fire damaged areas about air quality, environmental hazards and precautions concerning their water wells, propane tanks, and how to safely clean up structure fire debris.
- The Public Health Department participated in a community meeting for residents affected by the fire by answering questions and providing guidance about fire debris cleanup and recovery efforts.
- Public Health staff attended daily cooperating agency meetings hosted by the fire incident management team. Staff attend the meetings to get the latest information on fire activity and to coordinate response activities with other involved agencies.
- As part of the interdisciplinary damage assessment team that inspected the affected areas, Environmental Health Services staff members [assessed household hazardous waste, damaged water wells and swimming pools](#).
- Environmental Health Services staff also conducted sanitation and food safety inspections at the Red Cross evacuation shelter and two fire camps.
- Emergency Medical Services teams monitored impacts to healthcare providers, including ambulance providers, hospitals and potentially affected residential care facilities.
- Emergency Medical Services teams also provided daily situation reports to healthcare partners to keep local and state agencies informed about fire activity affecting the healthcare system.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness managers and staff supported the Red Cross shelter by providing privacy screens for shelter clients.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness managers and staff also sent two Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to assist the Red Cross in providing medical services to shelter clients.

Even after the incident, [the County provided support](#) to people affected by the blaze.

Cooperative Efforts

San Luis Obispo County is very large and no one emergency response agency can do it all. That is why cooperative efforts are essential in response to emergencies like wildland (such as the Chimney Fire) and structure fires, floods, earthquakes, hazardous material spills, and medical aids in the region.

Because of these cooperative efforts, people may have seen fire engines and firefighters from different agencies at the scene. This saves a considerable amount of money, while leaving local control to the counties', cities', and districts' governing boards and communities.

These agreements eliminate duplicate services, giving CAL FIRE the ability to provide dispatch, paramedic, fire, and rescue services in most of the communities in San Luis Obispo County at a tremendous discount to taxpayers.

CAL FIRE currently has agreements to provide fire protection with Avila Beach Community Services District, Los Osos Community Services District, the City of Pismo Beach, and the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County.



Therefore, County Fire / CAL FIRE SLO serves as the dispatch center for the following agencies:

- Cambria Fire Protection District
- Camp Roberts Fire Department
- Cayucos Fire Protection District
- Morro Bay Fire Department

more by the department.

- San Miguel Fire Protection District
- Santa Margarita Fire Department
- Templeton Fire and Emergency Services

If there is an emergency or disaster that exceeds local resources, local fire agencies have a formal agreement called the Mutual Aid Program to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries when requested.

At the same time, County Fire is a member of the [State of California Office of Emergency Services](#) (OES) Mutual Aid System. In an event of an emergency, the local agency requests mutual aid companies to assist them with their incident, e.g., earthquakes, fires, rescues HAZ MAT, terrorist events and floods.

Automatic Aid provides and/or receive assistance from the closest available resource, irrespective of municipal boundaries.

The initial response of resources is referred to as a first alarm. It is a prearranged first-alarm response per a definite plan by geographical area. The aid must be provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The aid must offset a need in the community.

For example, if a community needs a ladder company and the fire department does not have one, but a neighboring community's ladder company responds by automatic-aid agreement.

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE





COUNTY RECEIVES HIGH MARKS ON FEMA NUCLEAR EMERGENCY DRILL

[<< Previous article](#)

[Next article >>](#)



In 2016, the County and many other local and State agencies successfully demonstrated their ability to protect public health and safety in the event of a nuclear power plant emergency.

As part of the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluates the County's ability to respond to a nuclear power plant emergency. This program includes oversight of procedures, training and equipment as well as numerous exercise evaluations.

One of these exercises occurred on Nov. 2, 2016. In coordination with this exercise, the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and trained local and State responders to implement those plans in case of an emergency related to Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

"Our emergency services team worked extremely hard to prepare for this exercise to ensure that our plans and response agencies were prepared for this type of response," said County Emergency Services Manager Ron Alsop. "This extensive exercise involved very challenging processes and required many long hours and hard work, but it was ultimately worth it because it proved how well-prepared agencies in San Luis Obispo County are to deal with any sort of emergency coming from Diablo Canyon Power Plant."

The 2016 exercise evaluation lasted three days and focused on extensive response criteria involving local, State and Federal response agencies. The extended length of the exercise allowed all responding agencies in San Luis Obispo County to demonstrate additional response actions and coordinate with agencies that do not regularly participate in the biennial exercise.

The first day of the exercise specifically tested the County's and other agencies' ability to monitor and analyze potential radioactive releases, make protective actions decisions, and implement those decisions. Coordination and communication is a key aspect of the exercise, so the evaluation also focused on internal communications between response facilities and communication with the public.

The second and third days of the exercise focused on protection of the food supply as well as re-entry, return, and relocation. This phase of the response involves numerous State and Federal partners, as well as the neighboring counties of Monterey and Santa Barbara, which all participated in the exercise.

The exercise required the coordination of hundreds of responders staffing response facilities around San Luis Obispo County.

Response Facilities included:

- The County Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center
- The City of Pismo Beach Emergency Operations Center
- Port San Luis Harbor District
- The County Office of Education Departments Operations Center
- County Fire/Cal Fire Emergency Command Center

- County Public Health Department Operations Center
- County Public Works Department Operations Center
- Diablo Canyon Power Plant Response Facilities

Across the country, FEMA provides oversight and evaluation of agencies who would respond should there be an emergency at a commercial nuclear power plant. This oversight helps ensure that there is reasonable assurance that the public's health and safety is provided for. FEMA's Final After Action Report did not identify any findings during the evaluation.

 [Read the FEMA Report](#)

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE





CURBING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

<< Previous article

Next article >>



The County formed the SLO Opioid Safety Coalition in January 2016 to address the local epidemic of opioid (painkiller medication and heroin) misuse with grant funding from the California Health Care Foundation.

In 2015, 36 San Luis Obispo County residents died due to opioid misuse (opioids are painkillers such as oxycodone, codeine, and morphine). Two years prior, in 2013, County Public Health reported that there were 774 opioid prescriptions for every 1,000 SLO residents.

To address these issues, the coalition accomplished a lot in 2016, including:

- The first-ever Call-to-Action Event, in partnership with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, and two additional large public meetings to facilitate a community-wide discussion on the local epidemic and how to make a positive impact/change
- Creating five robust Action Teams, representing community members and professionals from a wide array of sectors. Each team focuses on one important area:
 1. Safe Prescribing & Health Care
 2. Data & Outcome Monitoring
 3. Community Prevention & First Responders
 4. Medication Assisted Treatment
 5. Naloxone: Overdose Antidote
- Holding 26 Action Team meetings to focus on goal development, goal accomplishment, and projects. Each team meets regularly to review their strategic and measurable goals.
- Publishing a public online data dashboard for local opioid-related epidemic information. A data scorecard is in final stages of development.
- Provided at least 15 presentations/trainings focusing on the life saving drug Naloxone, which can be used to reverse an opioid overdose.
- Organized and hosted a well-attended "Train the Trainer" event in September 2016 to provide information to local pharmacists about the dispensing of Naloxone directly to customers upon request.
- Gave five presentations to medical professionals and community partner staff regarding Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Organizing, promoting and hosting a summit in October 2016 to help people dispose of unwanted, unused, and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications.

The coalition coordinated with a variety of stakeholder groups and organizations, including but not limited to the County Health Agency (specifically Drug & Alcohol Services, Emergency Medical Services, and Epidemiology), the County Sheriff's Department, various representatives from Cal Poly departments, Integrated Waste Management Authority, CenCal Health, Aegis Treatment Centers, LLC., Kayla Peach Memorial Foundation, physicians from the four area Emergency Departments, and pharmacists.

The SLO Opioid Safety Coalition will continue its work through the end of the grant period (June 30, 2017) and will determine ways the Coalition can continue to work beyond this date.

BACKGROUND ACTION TEAMS DATA RESOURCES MEDIA CONTACT US

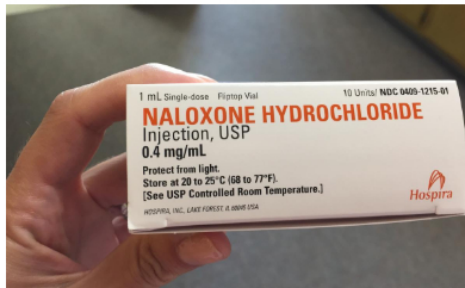
Medication Assisted Treatment. For those County residents already impacted by the epidemic, the Coalition recognizes the need for effective intervention, treatment and recovery options. The Medication Assisted



Treatment Action Team is dedicated to increasing age appropriate treatment services with access to healthcare, medically assisted treatment options, employment, and ongoing psychological and social support for those in recovery. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Naloxone: Overdose Antidote. Naloxone (Narcan™) is a powerful medication that works to reverse an opioid-related overdose. Because of its effectiveness and life-saving potential, the Naloxone Action Team is focused on expanding distribution locations and educational opportunities within the County, working with law enforcement, health agency officials, school districts, physicians, and community members to expand its use. Click [here](#) to learn more.



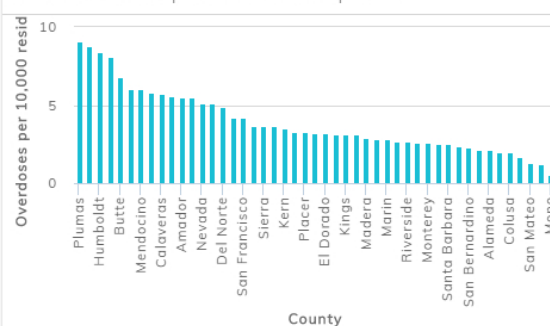
The Data

Opioid Overdoses Plague California. Taking too many prescription painkillers can stop a person's breathing—leading to hospitalization and even death. **CDPH figures showed an overdose rate of 3.7 per 10,000 residents between 2006-2013 for SLO County** (compared to a low of 1.2 per 10,000 residents in Santa Clara County and a high of 9.1 per 10,000 in Plumas County).

Source: "[See where California's heroin, opioid problems are worst](#)". *The Sacramento Bee*. Aug 17 2015.

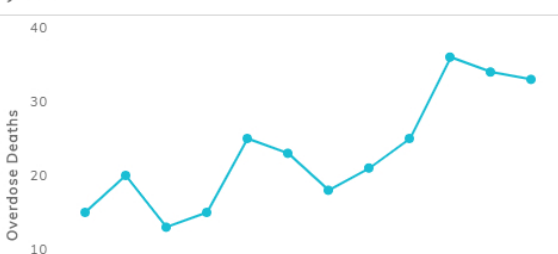
Overdoses per 10,000 Residents by County, 2006 to 2013

Source: California Department of Health: Epicenter



[VIEW DATA](#)

SLO County Opioid Overdose Deaths, by year



Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths increased from 15 in 2006 to 36 in 2017, affecting community members of all ages. Deaths related to opioids have been on the rise in the county in recent years, similar to trends seen nationwide.

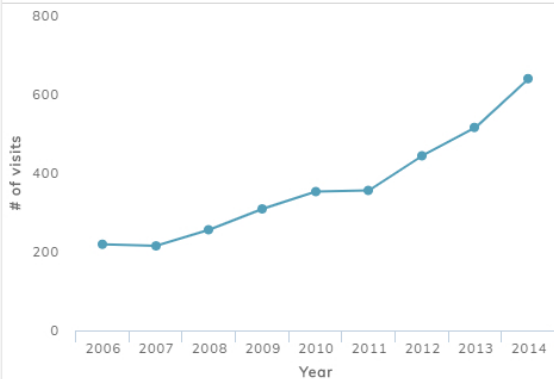
Source: [California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development \(OSHPD\)](#); [County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department](#)

Note: These figures include both overdose deaths identified by the state, as well as additional deaths determined by the Public Health Department to be related to opioids. This results

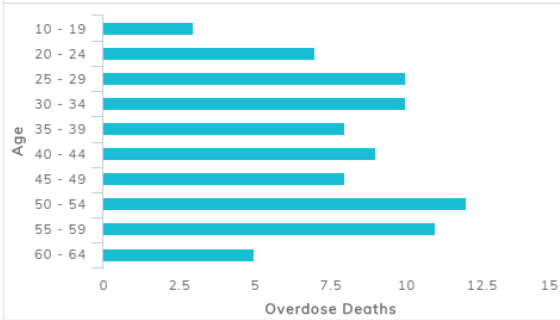


Public Health Department to be related to opioids. This results in a higher, but more precise, number.

SLO County Emergency Room Visits related to Opioid Use (non-fatal)



SLO County Opioid Overdose Deaths (by age), 2010-2013

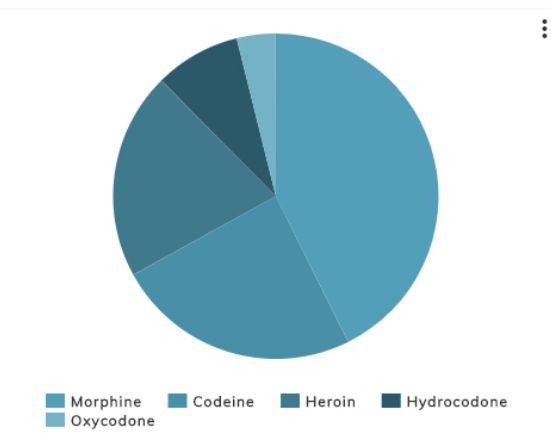
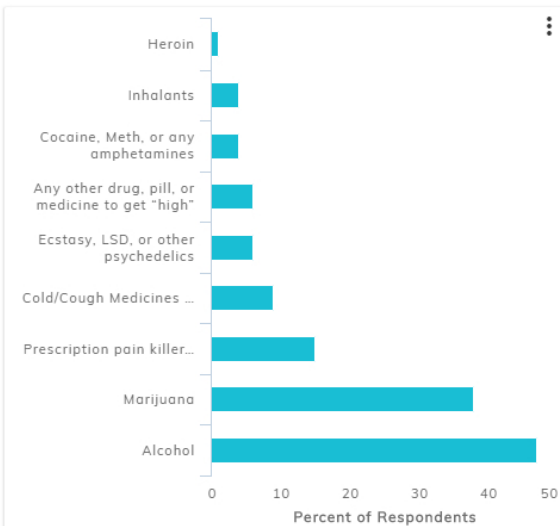


[VIEW DATA](#)

Drug Abuse Often Starts Young

The epidemic of prescription drug misuse and abuse affects people of all ages and often starts in youth. In SLO County, 15% of 11th graders reported having used Rx opioids, tranquilizers, or sedatives recreationally at least once in their lifetime. 3% reported having used Rx drugs to get high in the last 30 days. Research shows that among people who abuse drugs, 1/3 start with prescription drugs. The statewide CHKS survey monitors self-reported drug use with the question: "During your lifetime, have you ever used...?"

Source: *California Healthy Kids Survey, 2017-18: Main Report*. San Francisco: WestEd Health & Human Development Program for the California Department of Education.



Opioid-Positive Urine Tests for Arrests, by Type, 2014-2015

Of the arrest-related urine samples that tested positive for opioids by the SLO County Sheriff's Department, the majority were related to Morphine (43%), followed by Codeine (24%) and Heroin (21%). The high number of Morphine positive responses may be due to the fact that the majority of opiate drugs are morphine derivatives.

Source: San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department. Arrest Data. 2014-2015.

SLO County Treatment Admission Data, by type of Drug Use

CalOMS Treatment (CalOMS Tx) is California's data collection

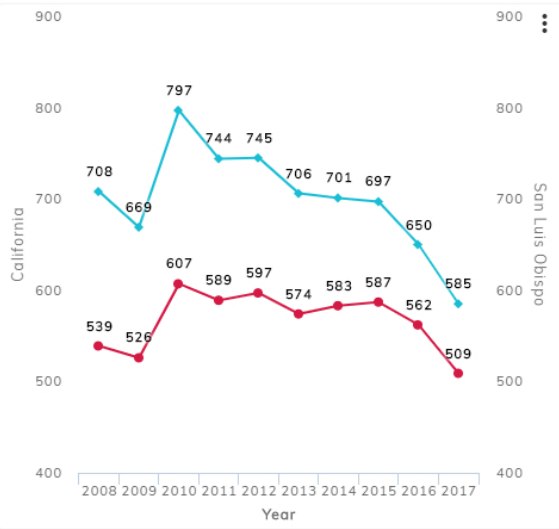
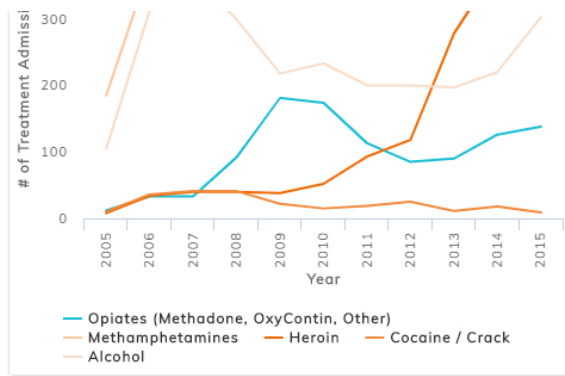


and reporting system for substance use treatment services. With data aggregated from a variety of treatment providers around the County, this data helps provide a snapshot of client behavior with regard to alcohol and drug use over time. In San Luis Obispo County, treatment admissions noting heroin as the primary drug of choice rose sharply in 2012, while admission for opiates rose in 2009, then leveled out in the years following.

Source: CalOMS Treatment Admission Data, 2005-2015

* Count does not include residents of SLO County who seek treatment outside the County.

** Counts may be affected by clinic openings in 2012 and 2013.



Number of Opioid Prescriptions per 1,000 residents, SLO vs. CA

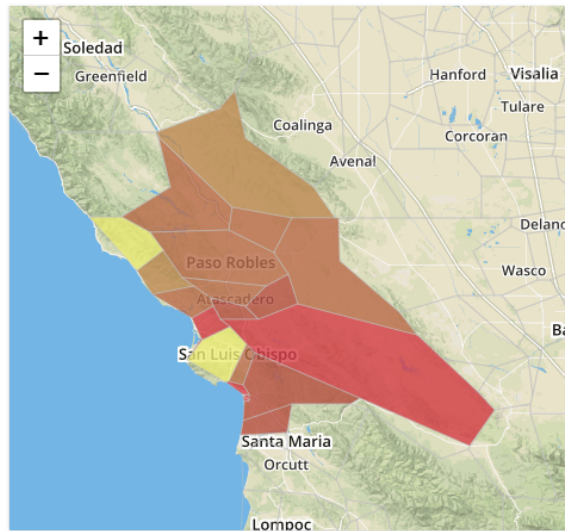
For every 1,000 residents in SLO County in 2017, there were 585 prescriptions for an opioid medication. San Luis Obispo County had a higher prescription rate for all years studied compared to the state.

Source: CURES 2.0 (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System)

Residents per 1,000 using 6+ prescribers or Pharmacies over 6 Months, by Zip Code

Opioid use varies geographically within the county as well, providing insight into potential areas where abuse may be most prevalent (and where community education and prescribing best practices are most needed).

Source: CURES 2.0 (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System)

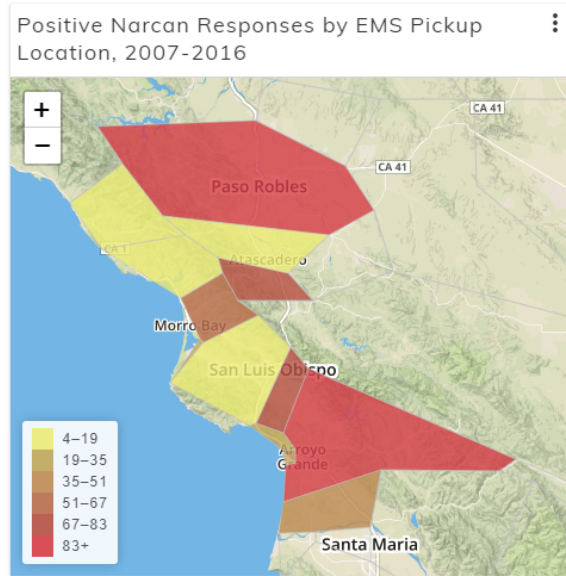
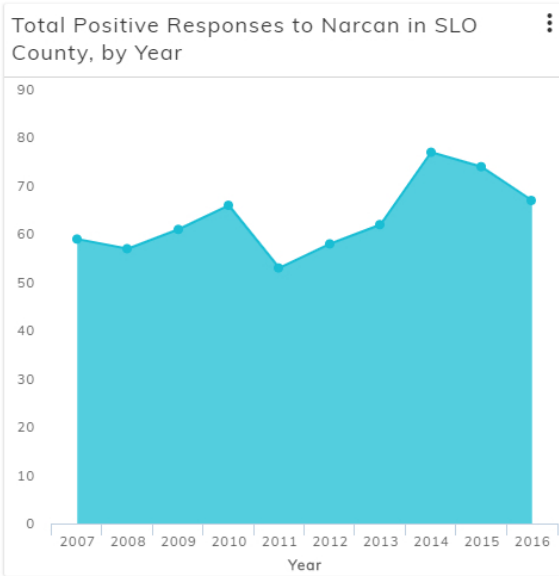


Positive Response to EMS Naloxone Administrations in SLO County

Naloxone (Narcan™) is given to patients who have an altered level of consciousness, respiratory depression, or cardiac arrest when local EMS arrive on the scene of an emergency call. However, only those who are opioid-intoxicated will show symptom improvement with Narcan. Because of this a positive response to Narcan is often used as a marker of opioid-induced overdose.

improvement with Narcan. Because of this, a positive response to Narcan is often used as a marker of opioid-induced overdoses within a community.

Source: County of San Luis Obispo Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA)



Resources

Complementary Treatments

Complementary medicine, also referred to as alternative treatments, includes diagnostic, treatment, or preventative disciplines that are used together with conventional medicine. Utilizing complementary medicine to treat chronic pain can reduce the risk of adverse side effects caused by prescription medication. Click [HERE](#) for a list of providers in the community.

Hepatitis C and the Opioid Epidemic

The California Department of Public Health has noted that rates of hepatitis C and heroin overdoses among young adults (ages 25-29) are increasing together, at a similar rate. This is not surprising given that sharing injection equipment is the #1 way hepatitis C is spread, but it is concerning given the severity of the infection. For information on curbing this troubling trend, see CDPH's [infographic](#) on the issue, their [main Hepatitis web page](#), and a [local report on SLO County rates](#).



GANG TASK FORCE RAMPS UP EFFORTS

[<< Previous article](#)

[Next article >>](#)



Gang activity in San Luis Obispo County is a growing concern among law enforcement agencies and County government officials. In 2016, there were 767 documented gang members in San Luis Obispo County and 55 documented criminal street gangs, which include White supremacist gangs, Hispanic gangs, black gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, international gangs, and others.

Just south of San Luis Obispo County's border, gang-related murders skyrocketed in 2016. However, neither Santa Barbara County, nor Santa Maria, has a gang task force. To assist, the San Luis Obispo County Gang Task Force helped apprehend and arrest Santa Maria gang members that had viciously murdered and conspired to murder opposing gang members.

As part of prevention outreach activities in 2016, the San Luis Obispo County Gang Task Force along with the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission developed a Gang Awareness Course for school staff throughout San Luis Obispo County. The course material addresses gang activity specific to a school's environment and has since become a popular request among many local school districts.

In addition to this Awareness Course, the San Luis Obispo County Gang Task Force, along with the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Training Unit, developed a Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certified Basic Gang Training Course, specifically for local law enforcement officers. The purpose of this course is to further educate law enforcement on criminal street gang and enforcement.

Additionally, in 2016, the County Board of Supervisors granted the County Sheriff's Office two new deputy positions to augment the existing Gang Task Force. These new positions will help provide the region with a Gang Task Force street team that will have daily contact with criminal street gang members, daily interaction with the public, and daily communication with local law enforcement agencies. The goal is to maintain a county-wide gang documentation process.

The County Sheriff's Office established its Gang Task Force in 1989 to make a positive difference through outreach and education, while changing the tide of violence and victimization that is perpetrated by these street gangs. An active effort to disrupt and dismantle criminal street gangs and gang activity has been occurring since then.

The Sheriff's Office hopes that this continued effort will reduce the amount of crime related to criminal street gangs, continuing to make San Luis Obispo County a safe and wonderful place to reside.

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE





LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN SLO COUNTY

<< Previous article

Next Section >>



As the largest law enforcement agency in San Luis Obispo County, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for protecting the life and property of local residents, while providing service, security and safety to the community.

While the County Sheriff's Office strives to be the "peacekeepers" for the County, the office also recognizes the growing crime trends in the area and the need to prepare for them.

One of the Sheriff's Office's greatest achievements in 2016 was securing the approval from the [County Board of Supervisors](#) to create several new positions, including two [Gang Task Force](#) deputies, two [Community Action Team](#) deputies, and one [unsolved crimes detective](#).

Community Action Team

In 2016, a growing concern of the Sheriff's Office involved homeless encampments, especially in local agricultural communities.

Over the past several years, many of these encampments have been hazardous environments for the occupants and have affected landowners, their business viability, their range land, and their natural water supply.

Sheriff's deputies have found hazardous materials and chemicals such as hypodermic needles, illegal drugs, fecal matter, minor oil spills, and propane tanks during visits to these encampments. These pose a threat not only to these occupants and their children, but also the land and creek water that are exposed to these contaminants.

In 2016, the Sheriff's rural crime deputies and inmate workers helped restore some of these creeks and range lands back to their natural setting, only to see the same transient occupants take up camp near-by.

A long-term solution was needed to help these campers, so that they could receive the proper care they and their children needed. Oftentimes these individuals are not strangers to the criminal justice system and create significant impacts on the courts, jails and law enforcement response due to their high recidivism rates.

In July 2016, the County Board of Supervisors approved several new positions at the Sheriff's Office, including that of two new [Community Action Team \(CAT\)](#) members.

The purpose of this new team is to identify individuals in these homeless encampments to get them appropriate treatment for drug/alcohol dependencies and/or mental health issues, which will hopefully integrate them back into society and reduce crime.

Several ways the County hopes to achieve this is by working closely with other community partners such as [Transitions Mental Health](#), [San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health](#), [San Luis Obispo County Probation Department](#), [San Luis Obispo County Veteran's Outreach](#) as well as court personnel and Judges.

These working relationships will help facilitate the process of ensuring those associated with homeless/transient camps are moved to appropriate housing facilities, and that they receive referrals to treatment facilities in lieu of jail time when appropriate.

Unsolved Crimes in SLO County

The County recently created a new unsolved crimes detective position to provide a more thorough and cohesive investigation into unsolved crimes or inactive cases.

Historically, the County's seven general crimes detectives assigned to unsolved and cold cases were responsible for balancing this work load along with felony and other major criminal cases, such as:

- murders
- robberies
- burglaries
- forgeries
- embezzlement
- missing persons
- and any other crime against persons and property

In 2016, there were about 1,700 of these cases. Having one full-time dedicated detective assigned to all unsolved and cold cases will not only free up the general crime detectives' time to work on current cases, but will provide a more thorough and cohesive investigation into unsolved or inactive cases.

With this new position, the goal is to organize and index the approximately 40 unsolved/cold case files the Sheriff's Office has, dating back to 1962. Many of the original documents from these cases are beginning to deteriorate, and need to be electronically processed in order to maintain their integrity.

After indexing and cataloging all of these cases, then assessing them for solvability and prioritizing each case, the focus will move to follow up investigation that will hopefully allow several of these cases to be closed within the first quarter of 2017.

For those cases with collected evidence, the unsolved crimes detective will utilize the County's crime lab to identify those that would benefit from modern evidence extraction techniques and testing, in hopes to find strong leads to investigate.

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE





FINANCIAL REPORT

At the end of every fiscal year, the County Auditor-Controller's office releases a [comprehensive financial report](#), which provides the public with a general overview of the County's finances.

This financial report is designed to show our citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors how accountable and transparent the County is for the money it receives and spends.

For questions concerning any of the information provided in the report or requests for additional financial information, [contact the County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office](#).

[Read the Complete Report](#)

ABOUT

[About County Government](#)
[Executive Team](#)
[Board Chair Message](#)
[CAO Message](#)
[About the Region](#)

REPORT FEEDBACK

What do you think of the 2016 Annual Report?
[Take the Survey >>](#)

OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

[Annual Reports Archive >>](#)
[Financial Report >>](#)
[Crop Report >>](#)
[Commission on Aging >>](#)
[Assessor Reports >>](#)
[Civil Service Commission >>](#)
[Sheriff's Office >>](#)
[Social Services >>](#)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

