

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: September 2024

SUBJECT: Ongoing Updates

Recommendation

Receive updates on various ongoing efforts.

Discussion

- a) **Rain & Reservoir Report.** See attached report.
- b) **Drought Updates.**
 - As part of SB-552, counties are required to have a standing Drought Task Force. Ours is led by the County of SLO Office of Emergency Services (OES).
 - OES last went to the Board on April 18, 2023.
 - The Board terminated the Drought Declaration.
 - The Staff report can be found here: <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/15621>
- c) **Groundwater Management Efforts**

On December 18, 2019, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Final Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) 2019 Prioritization¹ that designates each groundwater basin and subbasin (collectively, basins) as high, medium, low or very low priority. Groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) are required to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for each high or medium priority basin.

Basin Updates:

Basin	Update:
Los Osos Basin	<p>Los Osos Area Subbasin (adjudicated area) is designated as a very low priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. SGMA does not apply to the portions of Los Osos Basin that are adjudicated provided that certain requirements are met (Water Code §10720.8). The fringe areas of the Los Osos Area Subbasin are not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR very-low prioritization. The Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) oversees implementation of the Los Osos Basin Plan for the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its June 12, 2024, meeting, the BMC performed the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and approved the submission of the Final Draft 2023

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

	<p>Los Osos Basin Annual Monitoring Report to the Court to meet the requirements of the Stipulated Judgement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and voted 3-0, with S&T Mutual Water Company's representative abstaining, to concur with the May 9, 2024 Joint Purveyor Letter to the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building regarding the proposed draft Growth Management Ordinance implementation strategy. • Approved BMC Staff to prepare an application to pursue a grant from the Rose Foundation's Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Program to obtain funding for a new lower aquifer monitoring well, potentially located at the intersection of Ramona Ave and 4th Street. • The July 2024 BMC meeting was cancelled. • At its August 21, 2024, meeting, the BMC performed the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received a presentation by County Planning on the Los Osos Growth Rate Implementation Approach. • Receive an update on the Draft Spring 2024 Los Osos Basin Lower Aquifer Water Quality Monitoring Results and Updated Chloride Metric. • The regularly scheduled meeting for September 18, 2024, is canceled. The next BMC meeting is a special meeting on September 25, 2024. <p>Warden Creek Subbasin is designated as a very low priority and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/lososbasin</p>
<p>Atascadero Basin</p>	<p>Atascadero Basin is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Executive Committee (EC) elected to develop, and submit to DWR, a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by January 31, 2022. The GSP was submitted on January 30, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EC met on March 20, 2024 and passed a resolution to file the Water Year 2023 Annual Report with the California Department of Water Resources. • The next EC meeting will be announced once set. <p>For more information or to view meeting material, visit: www.AtascaderoBasin.com</p>
<p>Santa Maria Basin</p>	<p>Santa Maria Area Subbasin (adjudicated area) is designated as a very low priority basin. The adjudicated areas of the Santa Maria Basin are managed by the Northern Cities Management Area, Nipomo Mesa Management Area, and Santa Maria Valley Management Area. The County is implementing wellhead improvements at coastal monitoring well cluster 11N/36W-12C (Dunes Well 12C).</p>

	<p>The main purpose of the work is to raise the wellhead, which is covered by dune sand, and to re-equip the well with new, dedicated pumps for water quality monitoring.</p> <p>The Santa Maria Basin Fringe Areas – County of San Luis Obispo GSA is the GSA for the non-adjudicated fringe areas of the basin within the County. This subbasin consists of an adjudicated area and other non-adjudicated fringe areas. However, only the priority of the non-adjudicated fringe areas was assessed, which include the Ziegler Canyon Fringe Area in San Luis Obispo County and other fringe areas in Santa Barbara County.</p> <p>Arroyo Grande Subbasin is designated as a very low priority basin and is not subject to the requirements of SGMA due to the DWR prioritization; however, the County and City of Arroyo Grande as GSAs in the basin have prepared a GSP. DWR conducted Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Surveys over the Arroyo Grande Subbasin in November 2023 and the resultant data is anticipated late 2024. More information can be found at the following website: https://water.ca.gov/programs/sgma/aem</p> <p>For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/santamariabasin or www.slocounty.ca.gov/agbasin</p>
<p>Paso Basin</p>	<p>Paso Basin is designated as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. The Paso Basin – County of San Luis Obispo GSA, City of Paso Robles GSA, Estrella-El Pomar-Creston WD GSA, San Miguel CSD GSA, and Shandon San Juan WD GSA, entered into an agreement to develop and implement a single GSP for the basin and coordinate via the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee (PBCC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PBCC met on July 24, 2024 regarding the following items: updates on 1) the Blended Irrigation Water Supply Project engineering and feasibility study, 2) basin rate study project, 3) grant spending plan and schedule, 4) quarterly expense report, 5) fully-executed amendment No. 2 to the MOA, and 6) Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget approval. • The next Regular PBCC meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2024. <p>For more information, please visit: www.slocounty.ca.gov/pasobasin</p>
<p>Cuyama Basin</p>	<p>Cuyama Basin is designated as a high priority basin subject to critical conditions of overdraft. The Cuyama Basin GSA was formed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and is an independent agency governed by a Board of Directors for Cuyama Basin. An amended GSP was submitted to DWR on July 20, 2022 and on March 3, 2023, DWR issued a recommended “approval” of the GSP. The final approval with proposed corrective actions was received on May 25, 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cuyama Basin GSA met on July 31, 2024, to review results of 1) a fault investigation study, and 2) the updated basin numerical model; and provide feedback on the following components to be included in the amended GSP: 1) projects and management actions, 2) glidepath, 3) Central Management

	<p>Area boundary updates, and 4) groundwater allocation options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On July 18, 2024, a public workshop was held at the Cuyama High School District to present the results of the recent basin numerical model and received feedback on various GSP components planned for inclusion in an amended GSP. • The next regular Cuyama Basin GSA Advisory and Board meetings are scheduled for August 29, 2024, and September 4, 2024, respectively. <p>For more information, please visit: www.cuyamabasin.org</p>
<p>San Luis Obispo Basin</p>	<p>San Luis Obispo Basin is designated as a high priority basin. The County and City of San Luis Obispo GSAs, in coordination with other basin stakeholders, formed the Groundwater Sustainability Commission (GSC) to develop and submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the SLO Basin to DWR by the January 31, 2022 statutory deadline. The GSP was approved by DWR on April 27, 2023, and per the GSC MOA, the GSC terminated on March 18, 2024. Moving forward, the County GSA will work with local stakeholders to receive relevant feedback on the implementation of the GSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 27, 2023, DWR issued an “approved” determination for the SLO Valley GSP. DWR recommended four corrective actions and the County GSA and City GSA will be addressing these ahead of the next GSP periodic evaluation due January 26, 2027. • No meetings are currently scheduled at this time. <p>For more information, please visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/slobasin</p>
<p>Adelaida Area</p>	<p>The Adelaida Area is not a DWR designated groundwater basin; however, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is coordinating with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resources Conservation District (RCD) to conduct a hydrogeologic study within the Adelaida area. The goal of the study is to provide a better understanding of the groundwater conditions in the Adelaida area so that informed decisions can be made about managing local water resources. USGS, the RCD and County Staff have been working on Task 2 which consists of new data collection, including but not limited to: groundwater level data, water quality sampling, and surface-water monitoring. USGS has established the initial groundwater level monitoring network and installed a stream gage along the Paso Robles Creek.</p> <p>The work described in Task 2 is set to end in 2024 and District staff are working with USGS on the development of a program letter describing potential next steps to the study.</p> <p>For more information, please visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/adelaidastudy • https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ca-water/science/evaluation-groundwater-resources-adelaida-area-san-luis-obispo-county?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

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

San Luis Obispo County's SGMA Website and Mailing List Sign-up

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/sgma>

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Website and Mailing List

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>

d) County Flood Control Zones

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

Updates by Zone:

Zone	Update:
<p><u>Zone 1/1A</u> Arroyo Grande Creek Channel</p>	<p>Flood Control Zone 1/1A includes the maintenance and operations of the Arroyo Grande and Los Berros Channels to provide flood protection within the Zone located near the City of Arroyo Grande and the community of Oceano.</p> <p>The Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee last met on March 19, 2024. County staff provided key updates to the Committee on Phase 1 of the Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Emergency Capacity Restoration Project, Phases 2A and 2B of the Levee Rehabilitation Project, the Meadow Creek Lagoon Habitat Restoration Project, annual maintenance, and other flood planning efforts.</p> <p>The staff report for these topics can be viewed here: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/Flood-Control-Zones/Zone-1-1A-Arroyo-Grande-Creek-Channel/Meeting-Calendar.aspx</p> <p>The next meeting of the Zone 1/1A Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 3:00 PM. Meetings are held at the Sheriff's South Patrol Station, 1681 Front Street, Oceano, CA.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone1-1A</p>
<p><u>Zone 9</u> San Luis Obispo Creek</p>	<p>Flood Control Zone 9 provides flood control data and planning for the area encompassing San Luis Obispo Creek and its tributaries.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Zone 9 Advisory Committee is scheduled for September 11, 2024, at the City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Conference Room 1, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA.</p> <p>For more information, please visit: https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Zone9</p>

e) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

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

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

A summary of open and pending IRWM grants is below:

Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Mgmt Grant (2011)	\$2,797,000	Complete	
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3a Project	\$2,797,000	Complete	Flood Control District
Prop 84 Implementation Grant (2011)	\$10,401,000	Complete	
Los Osos Wastewater Project	\$5,945,444	Complete	County of SLO
Flood Control Zone 1/1A – Modified 3c Project	\$2,200,000	Complete	Flood Control District
Nipomo Supplemental Water Project	\$2,200,000	Complete	Nipomo CSD
Grant Administration	\$55,556	Complete	Flood Control District
Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement 2017	\$877,563	Complete	
FCD Funding Administration	\$20,700	Complete	Flood Control District
Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment	\$67,738	Complete	Flood Control District
Water Resource Reliability Program, Phase 2	\$177,750	Complete	Oceano CSD
Turnout Pump Design & Water Master Plan Update	\$177,750	Complete	City of Grover Beach
WRRF Value Engineering at 60% Design	\$78,125	Complete	City of SLO
Reservoir Exp. Project & Water Master Plan Update	\$177,750	Complete	San Simeon CSD
Wastewater Plant Upgrade & Recharge Basin Studies	\$177,750	Complete	San Miguel CSD
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 1	\$2,782,130	Complete	
Grant Administration	\$155,000	Complete	Flood Control District
One Water SLO, MBR/UV Component	\$1,314,530	Complete	City of SLO
8th Street Well Construction	\$238,100	Complete	Los Osos CSD
Supplemental Water Project, Final Phase	\$800,000	Complete	Nipomo CSD
Water Resource Reliability Program, Projects 1-1, 1-9	\$274,500	Complete	Oceano CSD
Prop 1 Implementation Grant, Round 2	\$3,782,129	In Progress	
Grant Administration	\$132,374	In Progress	Flood Control District
Indirect Potable Reuse	\$1,200,000	In Progress	City of Morro Bay
Central Coast Blue, Phase 1	\$1,000,000	TBD	City of Pismo Beach
Master Water Report Information System	\$549,755	In Progress	Flood Control District
Water Resource Reliability Projects	\$600,000	In Progress	Oceano CSD
Water Reliability Projects	\$300,000	In Progress	San Miguel CSD

For questions, contact:

Brendan Clark, IRWM Program Manager

Email: bclark@co.slo.ca.us

Phone: (805) 788-2316

f) Master Water Report (MWR) Update

August 2024 Update:

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

Background:

On June 7, 2022, the District Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Carollo Engineers, Inc. to develop the Master Water Report Update and Information System. Board Item:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/14655>

For more information, please visit the project website:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Current-Public-Works-Projects/Master-Water-Report-and-Data-Information-System.aspx>

g) State Water Project (SWP)

The following consists of summary updates concerning general ongoing State Water Project (SWP) items for 2024, the recent Westside Transfer, and upcoming items to note for 2025.

State Water Project (SWP)

- **Current SWP delivery allocation** – The 2024 SWP allocation is at 40%, which is expected to hold until the end of the year, amounts to 10,000 AF of new “Table A” water in 2024 (40% applies to the 25,000 AF “Table A” contract). Combined with the 12,500 AF in storage at San Luis Reservoir, the total SWP water available to SLO County in 2024 is 22,500 AF.
- **State Water Subcontractors Advisory Committee (SWSAC):** The next SWSAC meeting will be held on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM at the SLO City/County Library Conference Room.
- **For more information**, please visit <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/State-Water-Project-and-Subcontractors-Advisory-Co.aspx>

Westside Transfer – On August 20, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors approved the temporary, short-term transfer with the Westside Districts to make up to 13,500 AF of surplus SWP water available to them in 2024. The revenue from the transfer recovers costs (potentially up to \$5.4 million) by utilizing surplus water not needed by the County in 2024 or 2025.

- The financial benefit to the County depends on the total amount of water that the Westside Districts can take before the end of the calendar year (2024).
- For more information on the transfer, please see the attached Board letter.

Upcoming SWP Policy Updates (early 2025) – County staff are preparing to take draft policies to the board for review in Q1 of 2025 with recommended updates concerning (1) priority of use and (2) criteria for use of State Water. The policies would be used to evaluate requests to establish new SWP water users within the County. They will also guide the County as it works to improve SWP water management and consider cost recovery opportunities.

ATTACHMENT

[BOS Staff Report, 8/20/2024](#). See the County website for additional related attachments: <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/18059>

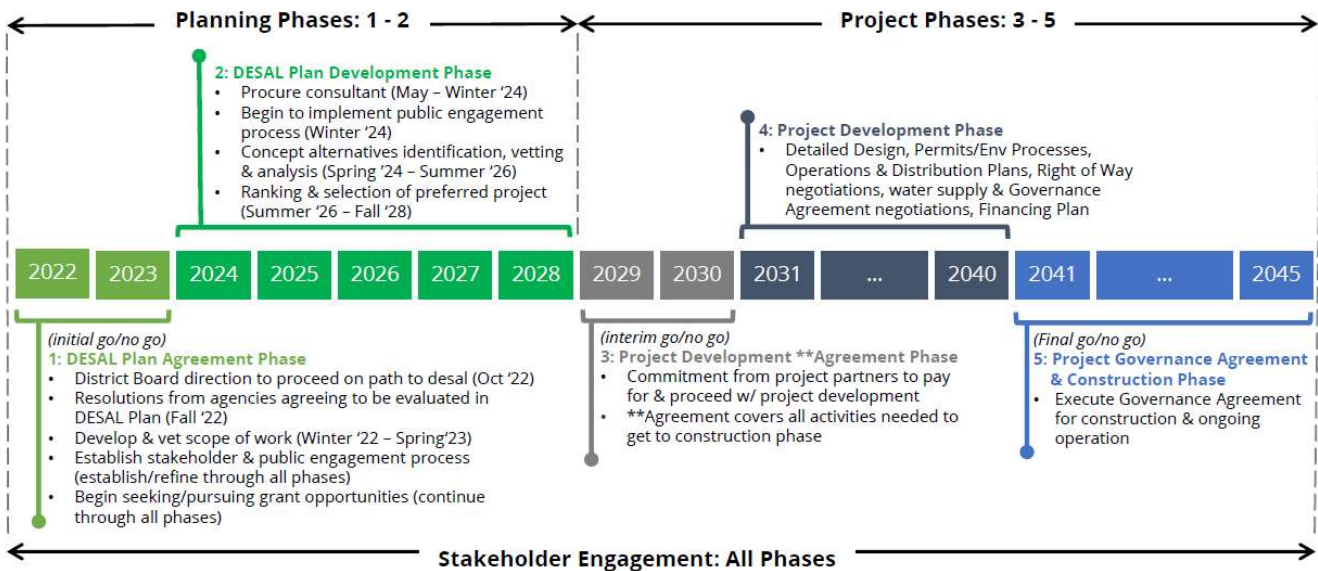
h) Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan (DESAL Plan)

Desalination, the process of removing salt from seawater and/or brackish water to create freshwater, can provide a safe, long term, drought-proof and resilient water supply. The District Board of Supervisors authorized staff to kickoff a planning effort, in coordination with partner agencies who have agreed to be considered in the DESAL Plan, to identify a desalination project in San Luis Obispo County and to pursue grants to help offset the associated costs.

District staff has been pursuing funding opportunities and was notified in late 2023 that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) plans to award the District \$548,410 under the USBR’s WaterSMART: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning program to support development of the DESAL Plan. The District is currently working with USBR to execute the funding agreement and soliciting proposals from qualified consultants to begin developing the DESAL Plan. Anticipated next steps include returning to the Board of Supervisors with a consultant contract for DESAL Plan development.

For more information, including a graphic laying out the potential timeline and phase descriptions, is available at the County’s DESAL Plan webpage at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/DESAL>.

Desalination Executable Solution And Logistics Plan
DESAL Plan*



i) Various County Water Programs, Policies, and Ordinances

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

Nipomo Mesa

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

Paso Basin

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

The Ag Offset ordinance requires property owners to verify that new and expanded irrigated commercial crops are not increasing their existing water use on-site, based on a 5 year look back period, with a 5 AFY exemption for sites that do not have existing irrigation and are outside of the area of severe decline. For more information, visit:

[https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Programs-and-Services/Paso-Robles-Groundwater-Basin-\(PRGWB\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Programs-and-Services/Paso-Robles-Groundwater-Basin-(PRGWB).aspx).

Los Osos

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

Offset Requirement.

The retrofit-to-build program within the community of Los Osos is allowing property owners to retrofit washers and/or hot water recirculation pumps within and outside the prohibition zone to acquire retrofit credits to offset water use for new development at a 2:1 ratio. Program information is available at: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Department-Divisions/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Water-Programs/Programs-and-Services/Los-Osos-Groundwater-Basin-Plumbing-Retrofit-to-Bu.aspx>

Los Osos Community Plan Update:

On June 13th, 2024, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) unanimously certified an amendment to the Estero Area Plan (EAP) with suggested modifications, based on the Los Osos Community Plan. The new policies and regulations of the amendment do not take effect unless the Board of Supervisors takes action to accept the suggested modifications and the CCC subsequently takes final action, recognizing the Board of Supervisors' acceptance of the suggested modifications.

Key policies and regulations from CCC's June 13th action:

- Residential growth rate cap to be 1% of total residential dwelling units

- Requirement for development to comply with the community-wide Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan (LOHCP) and Incidental Take Permit
- Requirement for development to be served by a sustainable wastewater treatment system (such as the Los Osos sewer)

On October 29th, the County Board of Supervisors is anticipated to hold a hearing to consider acceptance of California Coastal Commission's suggested modifications, the amendment to the Los Osos Community Plan, establishment of Los Osos growth rate and protocols for implementation of the "Los Osos Waitlist to Build", and implementation of the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan.

Los Osos Growth Rate Implementation Approach

At a public hearing (anticipated on October 29th, 2024), the County Board of Supervisors will consider the below approach to the implementation of a growth rate in Los Osos through an amendment to the County Code Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance. County staff (i.e., the Department of Planning & Building) coordinated with the Los Osos Basin Management Committee staff on the below approach. The most recently available public draft of the recommended amendments to the Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance can be found here: [Los Osos Community Plan Update \(ca.gov\)](#)

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

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

The recommended amendments to the Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance as it relates to Los Osos include the following:

- Requirement of annual review of the best available groundwater monitoring data;
- Establishment of an annual growth rate that may not exceed a rate of 1%, including accessory dwelling units and deed-restricted affordable dwelling units;
- Utilization of the Los Osos Waitlist to Build to determine the priority of allocation within the community sewer service area;
- Coordination with the Los Osos Basin Management Committee on an annual basis, in accord with the annual review of the growth rate;
- Establishment of a metered approach to allowable development based on recent available groundwater data where,

- Remainder of Calendar Year 2024: Growth rate of 0%,
- Calendar Year 2025: Annual growth rate of 0.4%,
- Calendar Year 2026: Annual growth rate of 0.6%,
- Calendar Year 2027: Annual growth rate of 0.8%,
- Calendar Year 2028 and beyond: Annual growth rate shall be established based on a 5-year rolling average of the BYM (see Table 1).

Table 1. Los Osos Growth Rate Implementation Approach

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

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

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

Rainfall and Reservoir Updates

Sub-Region	Area / Rain Station	Average Annual Rainfall	2023-24 Water Year Total Rainfall	2024-25 Water Year												Cumulative Total	% of Total Average
				July 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24		
North Coast	Cambria Area (ALERT #717)	22.0	25.09 (114%)	0	0.01 ^A											0.01	0%
	Whale Rock Reservoir (County Site #166.1)	16.0	18.96 (118%)	0	^C											0	0%
Inland	Paso Robles (County Site #10.0)	14.1	21.20 (150%)	^C	^C											0	0%
	NE Atascadero (ALERT #711)	17.0	15.48 (91%)	0	0 ^A											0	0%
	Atascadero MWC (County Site #34.0)	17.5	22.87 (131%)	^C	^C											0	0%
	Santa Margarita (ALERT #723)	24.0	24.75 (103%)	0	0 ^A											0	0%
	Salinas Dam (ALERT #719)	20.9	28.44 (136%)	0	0 ^A											0	0%
	Rocky Butte (ALERT #703)	40.0	72.18 (180%)	0	0 ^A											0	0%
South Coast	SLO Reservoir (ALERT #749)	24.0	24.35 (101%)	0	0 ^A											0	0%
	Lopez Dam (ALERT #737)	21.0	28.89 (138%)	0	0 ^A											0	0%
	Nipomo South (ALERT #730)	16.0	18.37 (115%)	0	0.01 ^A											0.01	0%
	Nipomo East (ALERT #728)	18.0	24.27 (135%)	0.07	0.05 ^A											0.12	1%

A - Report generated at 4:00 PM on 08-28-2024
 B - Due to an equipment malfunction, not all rain was recorded at this site.
 C - Information not available at time of update
 D - Missing data
 E - Planned maintenance outage; data to be included in future update.

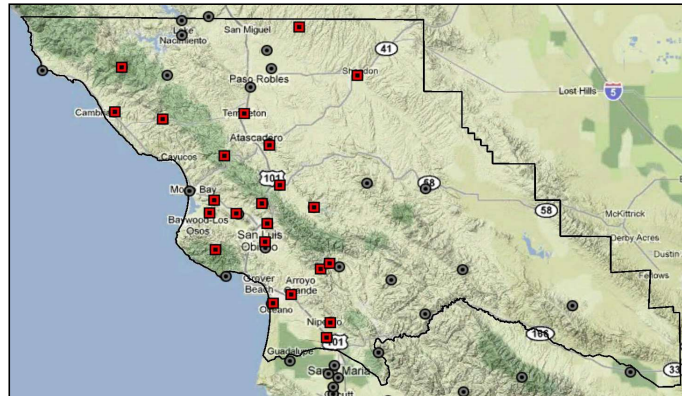
Notes:
 This table contains provisional data from automated gauges and has not been verified.
 All units reported in inches.

Reservoir Update

Reservoir	Date	Water Elevation (ft)	Spillway Elevation (ft)	Storage (acre-feet)	Capacity (%)
Nacimiento Reservoir	August 28, 2024	773.30	787.75 - 800.0 (w/gates fully inflated)	241,935	64%
	August 28, 2023	779.10		268,625	71%
San Antonio Reservoir	August 28, 2024	764.25	780.0	254,938	76%
	August 28, 2023	756.85		223,035	67%
Lopez Reservoir	August 28, 2024	520.33	522.7	47,426	96%
	August 28, 2023	521.39		48,284	98%
Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake)	August 28, 2024	1,301.90	1300.7	21,131	95%
	August 28, 2023	1,298.15		21,990	92%
Whale Rock Reservoir	August 1, 2024	213.70	218.3	37,640	97%
	August 25, 2023	214.80		38,271	98%
Twitchell Reservoir	August 11, 2024	526.88	651.5	1,304	1%
	August 28, 2023	598.52		57,847	30%

Note 1: Historically, Twitchell Reservoir elevation gauge does not report values below 539 ft. Twitchell Reservoir was designed for protection from flood and drought. Excess rain runoff is stored in the reservoir protecting the valley from flood, then water is released as quickly as possible while still allowing it to recharge the groundwater basin.
Note 2: In May 2014, the Whale Rock Commission adopted a new Bathymetric Study and Volumetric Analysis with new lake capacity and spillway elevation values. Those new values are reflected in this report.

Select Real-Time Rain Gauges in SLO County



Sites maintained by County staff are identified with red squares.
 Sites maintained by other agencies are identified with black circles.
 For more information, please visit <https://wr.slocountywater.org/>

TO: Water Resources Advisory Committee

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: September 2024

SUBJECT: Future Agenda Items

Fall 2024 Anticipated topics:

- State Water Policy Updates
- SB-552 – County Drought Planning Requirements
- Mobile Irrigation Lab Program
- Rain and Reservoir Reporting

Areas of Interest – Future

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

Excerpt from WRAC By-laws dated January 23, 2024

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