

The City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department

RESOURCE

MANAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



Water Resource Spotlight: Salinas Reservoir

THE CITY'S OLDEST DRINKING WATER RESERVOIR

Also known as Santa Margarita Lake, the Salinas Reservoir is located on the upper Salinas River, approximately nine miles southeast of the community of Santa Margarita. The project was originally built by the War Department to ensure an adequate water supply for Camp San Luis Obispo and the City of San Luis Obispo.

The City of San Luis Obispo has used Salinas Reservoir as a drinking water source since 1942, effectively making it the City's oldest surface water supply, followed by Whale Rock Reservoir and Nacimiento Reservoir. Prior to the utilization of Salinas Reservoir, the City received the majority of its drinking water from San Luis Obispo Creek. To learn more about Salinas Reservoir, check out page 2...

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Salinas Reservoir Continued

CONSTRUCTION AND HISTORY

The construction of Salinas Dam was first recommended in April 1941 by Raymond A. Hill to the Office of the Quartermaster General. He advised that the Salinas River Project be approved as a source of water supply for Camp San Luis Obispo and for other adequate uses in time to impound the flood run-off during the winter of 1941–1942, and to deliver water by the summer of 1942. Amazingly, construction of the dam was undertaken and completed in less than a year during 1941.

DELIVERY TO SAN LUIS OBISPO

Today, water is delivered from the Salinas Reservoir through 9.2 miles of 24-inch diameter pipe to a booster station near Santa Margarita. The pipeline is designed to flow by gravity from the Reservoir to the booster station when the lake level is above an elevation of 1,267 feet. If the lake drops below 1,267 feet, a pump station at the base of the dam pumps water to the Santa Margarita booster station.

From the Santa Margarita booster station, water is pumped over the top of the Cuesta Grade, where it is gravity-fed to the City’s water treatment plant on Stenner Creek Road for treatment and delivery to the community.

SALINAS RESERVOIR AS OF FEBRUARY

Due to its sizable watershed and an abundance of rainfall this winter, Salinas Reservoir reached maximum capacity and began flowing over the spillway on February 7, 2017. This marked the first time since May 2011 that Salinas Reservoir has reached maximum capacity. In just a few short months, the reservoir went from 9% of capacity in December 2016 to over 100% in February 2017.

Be sure to check out the Summer 2017 Resource for information on one of the City’s other four water sources: Whale Rock Reservoir, Nacimiento Reservoir, Recycled Water and Groundwater!



New Payment Option

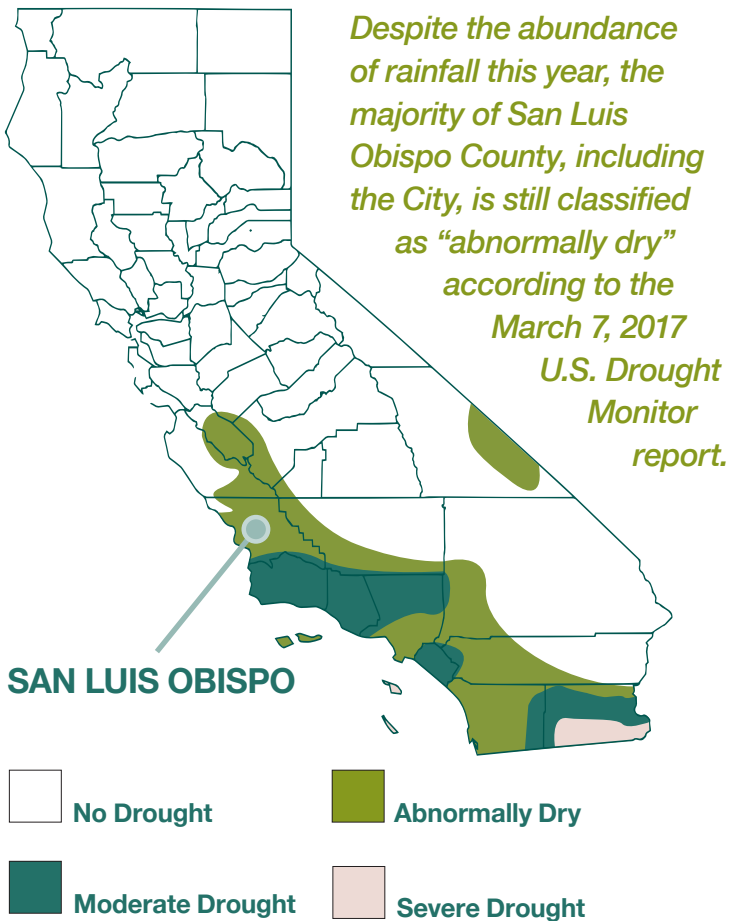
The City now offers a new phone payment option for water and sewer customers. This new system offers account balance information and will post payments immediately to your account once the system confirms payment with Visa or MasterCard. Customers just need the account number featured at the top right corner of each bill, and an active Visa or MasterCard. The payment system is available 24/7 at (805) 781-7133.

Drought Update

With recent rainstorms, the City's surface water supplies at Whale Rock Reservoir, Salinas Reservoir and Nacimiento Reservoir have seen significant recoveries over the past few months. Despite the abundance of rainfall this year, the majority of San Luis Obispo County, including the City, is still classified as "abnormally dry" according to the March 7, 2017 U.S. Drought Monitor report. Along with this, the state water board voted in February to keep the statewide emergency drought declaration in place along with related restrictions on water suppliers across the state.

So where does this leave us? While we wait to see what the last months of the rainy season will bring and anticipate the State Water Board will rescind its emergency drought declaration, the City is working on understanding what the next best steps for San Luis Obispo are. We're updating water models, examining current outdoor watering restrictions, looking at existing drought surcharges, preparing for new water conservation regulations coming from the State, and adjusting operational practices to ensure that sound decision making today provides the community with continued water resiliency into the future.

Thank you to our community for the great job conserving all water resources, and check out slowater.org for continued updates!



Four Steps for Maintaining Your Irrigation System

When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. This spring, homeowners are encouraged to do a little "sprinkler spruce-up." During a typical winter on the Central Coast, irrigation can be turned off until mid-spring due to our mild climate and low evapotranspiration rate. Properly maintained irrigation systems use water most efficiently, and fertilizers and other contaminants won't be washed into our storm drains and local waterways.

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO SPRUCE UP YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

1

INSPECT: Check your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro-look for an irrigation professional.

2

CONNECT: Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month!

3

DIRECT: Are you watering the driveway, house or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape.

4

SELECT: An improperly scheduled irrigation controller wastes water and money. Be sure that your watering schedule is consistent with City requirements, and do your part to make water conservation a way of life.



Utilities Department
 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Cleanup Week is Coming

GET EXTRA ITEMS PICKED UP FOR FREE FROM JUNE 26TH–30TH!

Nothing feels better than getting rid of unused items from your home and freeing up a little extra space. Start planning now to prepare for Cleanup Week from June 26–30!

During Cleanup Week, San Luis Garbage Company picks up extra items on your regularly scheduled trash and recycling day at either a reduced price, or for free. Please refer to the chart below for a list of items that are accepted during Cleanup Week.

Note: Please do not place hazardous materials on the curb for pickup. For help with the proper disposal of hazardous items, contact SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority at (805) 782-8530 or www.iwma.com/

FREE OF CHARGE	BULKY ITEMS (\$10 CHARGE)*
<p>12 Standard Trash cans (32 gallons each)</p> <p>The equivalent of 12 standard trash cans stored in other containers</p> <p>12 bundles, each four feet or less in length and 75 pounds or less in weight</p>	<p>Couches & Chairs</p> <p>Water Heaters</p> <p>Refrigerators</p> <p>Washers & Dryers</p> <p>Box Springs & Mattresses</p> <p>Passenger Car Tires (no more than four)</p> <p>Televisions</p>

**Special prices for bulky items are valid during Cleanup Week only. Additional items must be on the curb to qualify for these special prices, and must be scheduled for pickup two days prior to your collection day by calling San Luis Garbage Company at (805) 543-0875.*

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Water & Sewer Problems
 8 AM to 5 PM
 (805) 781-7215

After Hours & Weekends
 (805) 781-7312

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