

The City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department

RESOURCE

MANAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



Water Resource Spotlight: Nacimiento Reservoir

HISTORY

In 1959, San Luis Obispo County entered into an agreement with Monterey County to secure the rights to 17,500 acre-feet of water per year from Nacimiento Reservoir. Although it is located entirely within San Luis Obispo County, Monterey County built the dam and controls operations of the reservoir. As a result of the 1986–1991 drought, the City of San Luis Obispo realized the need to increase its water supply resiliency and began planning efforts to bring Nacimiento water to the City. The project was a success and San Luis Obispo received its first Nacimiento delivery in January 2011.

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Nacimiento Reservoir, Continued

LOCATION AND SIZE

Located just south of the San Luis Obispo County and Monterey County line, Nacimiento Reservoir is the County's largest surface water reservoir, storing a maximum of 377,900 acre-feet* of water. (That's roughly six times the storage volume of Whale Rock Reservoir and Salinas Reservoir combined!) This enormous capacity is required to capture the runoff from 324 square miles of surrounding watershed, which includes the Santa Lucia Mountain Range, one of the most abundant rainfall areas on the Central Coast.

**An acre-foot of water is 325,851 gallons of water, enough to provide water to seven homes for a year.*

THE CITY'S SHARE OF NACIMIENTO

Nacimiento was originally designed for flood control purposes, but today it also provides drinking water to several local communities, including ours. The City's original entitlement to Nacimiento was 3,380 acre-feet per year but was permanently increased to 5,482 acre-feet per year in March of 2016 during the recent drought. During 2016, the City used a total of 4,520 acre-feet of potable water. Unlike Whale Rock and Salinas, where the City has rights to stored water, water from Nacimiento is delivered contractually starting every October. Even if the City doesn't use all of the water available in a year, the cycle resets annually and the City receives a new entitlement of 5,482 acre-feet the next October.

NACIMIENTO INTO THE FUTURE

The addition of Nacimiento Reservoir adds another layer of security to the City's already diverse water supply portfolio. Along with Whale Rock and Salinas reservoirs, local groundwater, and the expanded uses of recycled water, Nacimiento strengthens our ability to meet the future water needs of San Luis Obispo.

377,900
Acre-Feet

Max Capacity

324
Sq. Miles

Watershed Size

Protecting Local Watersheds



When it rains, runoff can carry pollutants into the storm drains that lead to our local waterways. Thus, discharges from individual residences within San Luis Obispo may contribute

to water pollution. It's up to you to make sure litter, pesticides, detergents, oil, grease, and pet waste do not end up in the storm drain.

Residents can help make San Luis Obispo a much cleaner place to live and work by following these good housekeeping practices:

1

DRIVEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS

- Sweep off driveways and sidewalks rather than hosing them down. Not only does hosing off a driveway or sidewalk wash pollutants into local creeks, it is also illegal in California as a result of the recent drought.
- Cover any stockpiles of dirt or mulch before it rains or gets windy.

2

PET WASTE

- Clean up after your pets and dispose of pet waste in a trash bin (not in your green waste).

3

ILLEGAL DUMPING

- Properly dispose of hazardous materials such as paint, paint thinners, solvents, pesticides, oil, and fuel. Disposal options for hazardous materials can be found at iwma.com/what-to-do/hhw/.

Dumping into the storm drain, creeks, and streams is illegal. Call (805) 781-7215 to confidentially report any suspicious activity that may pollute local watersheds.

The Rewards and Risks of Rainfall

PREPARING FOR THE “FIRST FLUSH”

There is no doubt that the community welcomed the abundant rainfall we received last year. It filled local reservoirs, recharged groundwater basins, provided much-needed water for our trees and landscapes, and replenished local creeks that provide habitat for steelhead and other wildlife. But with all these benefits, runoff from rainfall can transmit harmful pollutants into local creeks and streams if proper precautions aren't taken. You can prepare before the next rainy season hits:

- Keep the area in front of your home clean, including the gutters.
- Recycle used motor oil and fix oil leaks in your vehicles.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides in recommended amounts. Do not apply them to your lawn if a storm is expected.
- Use your green waste container for grass, leaves, yard clippings, and food waste.
- Ensure that yard drains and rain gutters are not illegally connected to the City's wastewater collection system.



Behind the Scenes

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS MANAGER



TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

My name is Ben Marquart. Originally from Templeton, I'm a CSU Chico graduate in Public Administration and a CSU Monterey graduate with a Masters of Business Administration (MBA). Along with my 20 years of experience in underground construction and haz-mat/environmental remediation, I'm a California State Licensed Contractor and Qualified Industrial Storm Water Practitioner (QISP). I relocated back to SLO County 12 years ago and live in Paso Robles with my wife and four children.

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION RESPONSIBLE FOR?

My role is the development and administration of the City's federally mandated Pretreatment Program, Industrial Stormwater Program and aspects of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System program. My staff and I investigate sources of pollution and ensure regulations are being followed. We work with industry professionals to eliminate harmful discharges to our local watersheds and our wastewater system.

IF YOU COULD ASK THE COMMUNITY TO BE AWARE OF ONE THING WHAT WOULD IT BE?

The individual actions that we take in our homes and businesses can have a large impact on water quality for generations to come. Small actions help to ensure future sustainability.



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 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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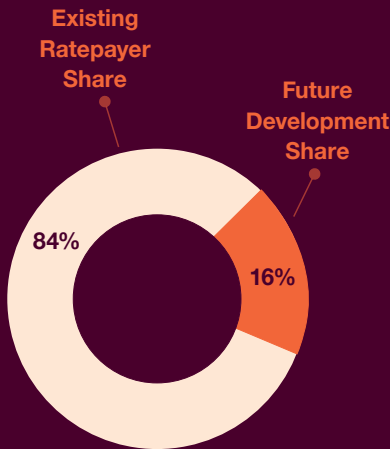
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

New and Existing Development

WHO PAYS FOR WHAT?

There can sometimes be tension surrounding new development and existing community. A common concern is those that are already here want to be assured newcomers pay their fair share of capital infrastructure that has been (or will be) put in place for the newcomers' benefit. City policy supports this concept and one of the ways in which this occurs is through the City's development impact fee program.



For the City's water and wastewater utilities this development fee is called the capacity and connection fee. On a highly simplified level, the fee is calculated using information found in 1) the existing asset database, 2) master plans (which are technical guidance documents about replacing all the pipes and treatment facilities) and 3) the City's General Plan expected growth data. The infrastructure costs are split 84% existing ratepayer; 16% future development.

People frequently think taxes (like property and sales) help pay for water and wastewater services. Taxes do not fund these services. Revenue comes from 1) monthly bills (90 percent of revenue), 2) capacity and connection fees (seven percent), and 3) miscellaneous fees and income (three percent).

The City Council will be considering updated capacity and connection fees. You are invited to attend the meeting, ask questions if desired, and learn more about how your water and wastewater utilities financially operate.

WHEN: *October 17, 2017, 4 PM Study Session and 6 PM Public Hearing*

WHERE: *City Hall Council Chambers, 990 Palm Street*

Learn more at slowater.org/capacityandconnection.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

After Hours & Weekends
 (805) 781-7312

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