

SPRING 2020



The City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department

# RESOURCE

MANAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE

## Step 2 of Securing SLO's Sustainable Groundwater

**THE PROJECT:** Two water sources—surface water and groundwater—serve all of the water needs within the San Luis Obispo Valley Basin (SLO Basin). In 2020, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) signaled the first time that this vital source of water will be formally managed. As required by SGMA, the SLO Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) now through January 2022. The SLO Basin GSP will guide regional users on how to reach sustainable groundwater levels in the future.

**PROGRESS TO DATE:** The first two steps in the GSP development process are nearing completion, as illustrated on page two. The first step documented how the GSP will be managed and governed by the GSAs over time. The second step, now underway, is building a clear and accurate picture of the Basin (known as Basin Setting), including documenting the Basin's hydrogeological make up, historic groundwater use, location of wells that extract groundwater, and future land use plans, among other information. This information helps predict future groundwater demand and informs how sustainable groundwater management can be achieved in the future.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** April 8th, at 6:00 PM, a public input workshop will be hosted at the Ludwick Community Center. At this workshop, stakeholders can participate in the third step in the GSP development process—setting sustainability goals for the Basin. Participants will be given an overview of the Basin Setting and be introduced to what goes into creating a groundwater sustainability goal, per SGMA requirements. Participants will then work in small groups with groundwater experts to help identify the preliminary sustainability goals for the Basin.

Find details and register at <http://portal.slowaterbasin.com/event/23>

READ MORE INSIDE

## 5 Steps to Sustainable Groundwater in the SLO Basin



### BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER LAW

Single-use plastics used for take-out from restaurants or at events are not always recyclable; and often end up in local landfills where they degrade slowly over hundreds of years. Many of these single-use plastics are used for only a few minutes between manufacturing and disposal and end up as pollutants found in our soils, creeks, and oceans.



#### Solving the Problem

To help solve this problem, the State of California recently approved Assembly Bill 619. Passage of this law served to clear up some concerns and ambiguity about the use of reusable containers and clearly states that customers may now bring reusable containers to restaurants or food vending events like Farmers' Market.

#### Is it required of food establishments?

Bringing reusable containers for takeout, or getting reusable containers and utensils from food vendors, is not required of food establishments. Restaurants have the legislative support to accept reusables, but are not required to provide reusables service to customers.

#### Is it hygienic?

The new law is very specific regarding the health measures required to ensure public health is protected and if protocol is followed, there should be no health risk to utilizing reusables.

#### How can I help my community?

Remembering to carry reusable utensils and containers with you to events and restaurants helps the environment and reduces waste in our community. In order to kick-off the passage of Assembly Bill 619, we're giving away some reusable items on our City recycling Facebook page at [facebook.com/RecycleRightSLO/](https://www.facebook.com/RecycleRightSLO/). Enter our giveaway and to learn more about how to reduce waste in our community!



# MAINTAINING OUR COMMUNITY'S ASSETS

This spring you may notice some construction around the City. The following improvements to the City's water and wastewater systems will be underway throughout the next year.

## Casa, Stenner, Murray Water Line Replacement Project

Project Timeline: October 2019 – March 2020

This project includes replacing over 3,000 feet of water pipeline in areas around Sierra Vista Hospital. These upgrades will replace aging pipelines and will improve firefighting ability to Sierra Vista Hospital and the neighboring community.

## Water Resource Recovery Facility Project

Project Timeline: September 2019 – March 2023

The Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) treats the wastewater for the City. This project will improve water quality in San Luis Obispo Creek, provide capacity to meet buildout of the City's General Plan, replace aging infrastructure, and maximize recycled water production. The project is financed through a low-interest loan from the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

## Water Quality Improvement Project

Project Timeline: December 2019-June 2020

This project includes two components: Pipeline replacement at the City's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Water Tank Improvements. The first portion includes replacement of aging pipe within the WTP. This construction will be complex as the existing WTP must continue to operate and serve the community's water needs, allowing only short duration shutdowns that will not interrupt water service. The project requires significant excavation work to enable the new pipeline installation. The Water Tank Improvements include modifications at two treated water storage tanks for the installation of mixers, aerators, and ventilators that will serve to improve water quality within the City's water distribution system.

## Water Energy Efficiency Project

Project Timeline (Design): November 2019 – May 2020 | Construction: May 2020 – September 2021

The Water Energy Efficiency project involves a public/private partnership with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and is estimated to reduce annual energy use by over 33 percent at the City's Water Treatment Plant. This reduction is equal to the annual amount of carbon sequestration achieved by 140 acres of forest. The project includes improvements to the disinfection system, the transfer pumps, and makes technological improvements that improve the operation of the facility.

## 2020 National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation

This April marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and in celebration, SLO is dedicating the entire month to our planet! **Mayor Harmon is joining mayors across the country in asking residents to take part in the annual Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation from April 1 – 30, 2020.**

In 2019, the City of San Luis Obispo along with 3,800 cities in the U.S. pledged to reduce their annual consumption of freshwater by 3 billion gallons, reduce waste sent to landfills by 79.9 million pounds, and prevent more than 177,000 pounds of hazardous waste from entering our watersheds. Let's continue to show the nation how San Luis Obispo takes care of our planet by pledging even more this year! Remember, water conservation is a way of life. **Join us in celebrating Earth Month by taking part in the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation at [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com)**

*"As part of a community that focuses on preserving natural resources, I encourage all of San Luis Obispo to join me in pledging to conserve our water resources. Together we can ensure water resiliency, community stability, and a great future for generations to come. Join me in making San Luis Obispo not only one of the happiest places in the world, but also one of the most water-wise."*

– Mayor Heidi Harmon, City of San Luis Obispo



**Utilities Department**

879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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# CLEANUP WEEK JUNE 22-26

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.

\*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.**

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 Waster Management Authority at **(805) 782-8530** or [www.iwma.com/](http://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 4ft or less in length and 75 pounds or less in weight</p>	<p>Couches &amp; Chairs</p> <p>Water Heaters</p> <p>Refrigerators</p> <p>Washers &amp; Dryers</p> <p>Box Springs &amp; Mattresses</p> <p>Passenger Car Tires (no more than 4)</p> <p>Televisions</p>

**FOLLOW US  
ON FACEBOOK!**

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

WATER & SEWER PROBLEMS | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
(805) 781-7215

AFTER HOURS & WEEKENDS  
(805) 781-7312