City of San Luis Obispo

Wastewater Flow Offset Program: Applicant Info Sheet

Program Overview

The Wastewater Flow Offset Program (adopted by City Council September 2019) was developed to accommodate new or intensified development in capacity constrained areas by replacing laterals in poor condition. Capacity Constrained areas (right) are areas within the City where the existing sewer system infrastructure cannot accommodate additional wastewater flow. Applicable development includes:

- Accessory dwelling units (ADUs)
- Residential development
- Commercial development

Steps for Compliance

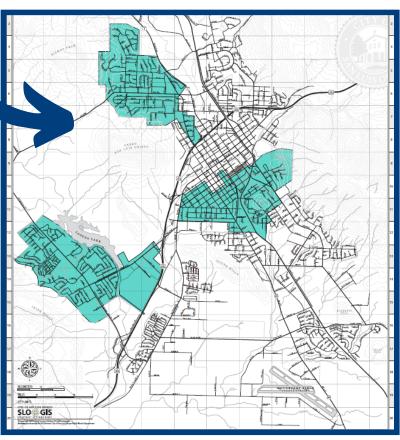
- Determine if the project is within a capacity constrained area
- 2 Calculate required offset
- Replace required sewer laterals to receive offset
- Submit offset application with building permit plans for City Review
- 5 Build your project!

Municipal Code Ordinance 13.08.396

Questions?

Contact: wastewateroffset@slocity.org

Capacity Constrained Areas Map



For more information on how to comply, please visit the program website at: https://www.socity.org/government/department-directory/utilities department/wastewater/wastewater-offset-program

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Do ADU's need to do an Wastewater Offset?

Yes, ADU's result in additional wastewater flow into the City's sewer collection system and would require an offset. The number of offsets required is based on square feet and round to the nearest whole number. Therefore, ADU's that are less than 450 square feed would not require an offset.

2. Can I replace my own lateral as an offset?

No, offsets required by Municipal Code Ordinance 13.08.396 shall be completed off-site. The existing on-site sewer lateral is required to be inspected and replaced if it is not in compliance with City Standards under Municipal Code Ordinance 13.08.395.

3. Can I receive a rebate for my lateral replacement?

No, the Sewer Lateral Rebate Program is a voluntary program that incentivizes community members to replace their sewer lateral. The Wastewater Flow Offset Program is a code requirement for new development and therefore will not qualify for a rebate.

4. Can I pay a fee instead of replacing someone else's sewer lateral?

No, sewer laterals are privately owned infrastructure and the City only operates and maintains public infrastructure due to liability issues and a limitation on available resources.

Steps for Completing an Offset

- Locate a sewer lateral for replacement in the same sewer capacity constrained area as the project.
- Verify with the Utilities Department that the chosen lateral will satisfy the Wastewater Flow Offset Program's requirements.
- Establish an agreement between the project applicant and the wastewater offset recipient for a wastewater flow offset credit.
- Complete the City's Wastewater Flow Offset Program Application following the sewer lateral replacement and submit it to WastewaterOffset@slocity.org.
- The application will be reviewed by the Utilities Department for consistency with the program. Once the application is approved, the Utilities Department will sign off on the Building Permit issuance.