

SPRING 2021



The City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department

RESOURCE

MANAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



San Luis Obispo Remains Water Secure

As much of California enters a second consecutive year of below average rainfall, the City understands that community members may be concerned about the City's water supplies. While local rainfall has been about half of the average this year, the City is not currently experiencing or forecasting a water shortage thanks to our investment in multiple water supplies and our partnership with a community that embraces water conservation.

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Unlike much of the United States where rainfall levels are fairly consistent from year-to-year, California has the highest year-to-year variability in rainfall of any state. Essentially meaning that a single dry year, or even two consecutive dry years, is not abnormal for our state. Because of this, the City cautiously plans for dry periods in its water supply, which allows the community to continue to thrive during both drought and non-drought periods. In fact, the City is capable of withstanding multiple dry years, while still allowing for ample supplies for our community today and for the City's projected build-out, as defined in the City's General Plan.



WHALE ROCK RESERVOIR

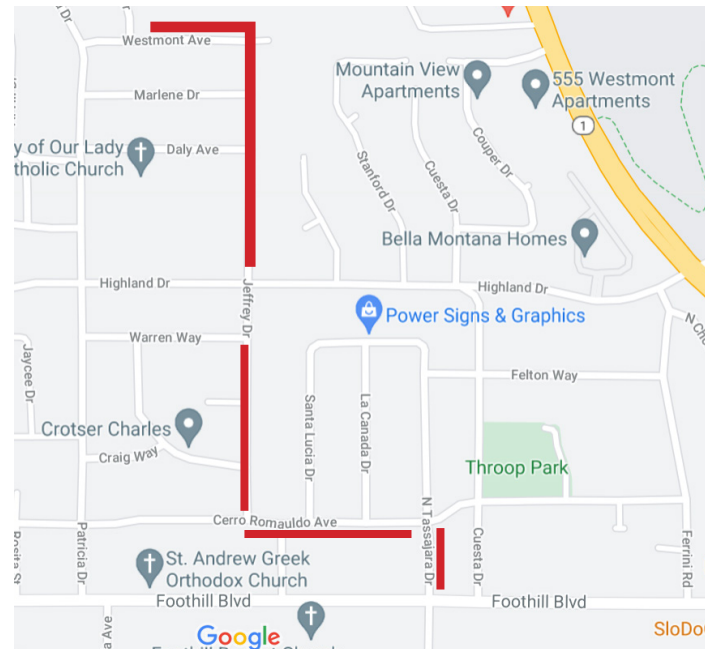
As a result of work conducted during and after the 2011-2015 drought, such as participation in the production of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan to better understand groundwater supplies and availability, the acquisition of additional water from Nacimiento Reservoir, and upgrading the Water Resource Recovery Facility to allow for expanded use of recycled water, the City is well positioned to handle periods of limited rainfall.

As we move into this new dry period, the City remains committed to the sustainable management of our water supplies. We are truly appreciative of the incredible water conservation ethic we continue to see from our community and value the partnership in conserving this precious resource.

Your Dollars at Work

Tassajara, Cerro Romauldo, Jeffrey, Westmont Sewer & Pipelines

The City of San Luis Obispo's Utilities Department will be replacing both gravity sewer and potable water mains within the northwest part of the City and along Jeffrey Street between Cerro Romauldo and Westmont Street. The pipelines replacement will eliminate capacity limitations, improve wastewater and water conveyance, and reduce service interruptions associated with emergency repairs.



Replacement of existing gravity sewer and potable water mains at the same time will result in an overall shorter construction period as compared to replacement in multiple phases, and it will be less disruptive to traffic and residents in this area.

Pipelines on BeeBee Street & Cuesta Drive

Replacement of the water mains on Beebee Street from South Street to High Street and Cuesta Drive from Foothill Blvd to Highland Drive are scheduled between now and Summer 2021. These water mains have served the community for many decades and are the next in line for replacement as we strategically update our aging water infrastructure.

This project will ensure the reliability of water service for these residents and will decrease the additional maintenance they currently require. A small portion of water main will be added at the end of Santa Ynez Ave and will connect to Loomis Street.

This addition will provide a connection between two separate water pressure zones, providing greater water resilience in the event of an emergency.

Cal Poly is Conducting Sustainability Research at the SLO WRRF

Since 2007 the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) staff have teamed up with Cal Poly students to offer an opportunity to conduct scientific studies. The projects have looked at ways to treat wastewater more efficiently and at ways to convert wastewater into a renewable energy source.

The students' work is centralized in a research station located on a previously unused area of the WRRF. The students' activities are organized by the research staff of the Cal Poly Sustainable Utilities Research and Education (SURE!) program, which is funded by competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, the California Energy Commission, the USDA, and other agencies. At any time, a dozen or more students are participating in research at the WRRF, with many more assisting in the research back in the Cal Poly campus laboratories. So far, 2,200 students from science and engineering majors have completed at least one quarter of research with SURE!. "It may seem strange to say, but this is the point where some students fall in love with wastewater recycling," says Chris Lehman, Supervisor of the WRRF, "and the industry always needs more smart, trained people to protect the environment and make the best use of our resources."



Currently, Cal Poly is operating three projects. The first is determining how to grow populations of algae and bacteria in wastewater to aid in wastewater treatment and decrease the electricity consumption and overall costs. The second is using algae to lower the concentrations of pollutants in wastewater, and the third is discovering algae species that grow exceptionally fast in wastewater and can be converted to biofuels, bioplastics, or specialty fertilizers. These algae are grown in circulated "raceway" ponds, using nothing but wastewater and sunlight. As the demand for green fuels increases, you may be filling up your vehicle with biofuel that got its start at the City of SLO WRRF! **Visit our website to learn more and to sign up for updates, www.slowrrfproject.org.**



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

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Summer Clean-Up Week: June 21-25, 2021

Start planning now for Summer Clean-Up Week! San Luis Garbage Company will pick up additional items on your regularly scheduled trash and recycling day. **For no extra charge, you may leave at your curbside by 6:00 am the morning of service:**

- Up to 6 extra cans (32 gallons each) or the equivalent in other containers
- Up to 6 tied bundles no longer than 4 feet or heavier than 50 pounds each

Big, bulky items are picked up with a small fee and must be scheduled at least five days before your collection date by calling (805) 543-0875.

Up to two of each of the following items will be accepted from each residence:	The following items will not be accepted:
Televisions Couches Washers/dryers Chairs Box springs/mattresses Refrigerators ...and more!	Carpet Hazardous Waste

Visit SanLuisGarbage.com or call (805) 543-0875 to learn more!



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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

AFTER HOURS & WEEKENDS
(805) 781-7312