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2035



LAND USE &  
CIRCULATION  
UPDATE

APPENDIX I: WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT

*Please see the next page.*

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO**  
**ASSESSMENT OF WATER SUPPLY**  
Water Code §10910 et seq.

To: City of San Luis Obispo  
990 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Project Title: City of San Luis Obispo Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) Update

Assessment of Availability of Water Supply

The following determination has been made regarding the above-described project:

- The projected water demand for the project was included in the City's most recently adopted urban water management plan.
- Based on additional sources of information, a sufficient water supply is available for the project. The total water supplies available to the City during normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years within a 20-year projection will meet the projected water demand under the project in addition to the demand of existing and other planned future uses, including, but not limited to, agricultural uses.
- A sufficient water supply is not available for the project. *[Plan for acquiring and developing sufficient supply attached. Water Code § 10911 (a)].*

The foregoing determination is based on the following Water Supply Assessment Information and supporting information in the San Luis Obispo General Plan Update Background Report Section 5.1, Water and 5.3 Wastewater, as well as the records of the City of San Luis Obispo.

*Signed copy on file at City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department*

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Signature	Date	Title
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## **WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

This water supply assessment is provided for the proposed Land Use and Circulation Element Update for the City of San Luis Obispo, pursuant to the requirements of Section 10910 of the State Water Code, as amended by Senate Bill No. 610, Chapter 643 (2001).

### **BACKGROUND**

Senate Bill No. 610 (Costa) became effective January 1, 2002. The bill requires a city or county which determines that a "project" (as defined in Water Code § 10912) is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project and to request those public water systems to prepare a specified water supply assessment. The assessment is required to include an identification of existing water supply entitlements, water rights, or water service contracts relevant to the identified water supply for the proposed project and water received in prior years pursuant to those entitlements, rights, and contracts. The assessment must be approved by the governing body of the public water system supplying water to the project. If the projected water demand associated with the project was included as part of the most recently adopted urban water management plan, the public water system may incorporate the requested information from the urban water management plan in the water supply assessment. The bill requires the city or county, if it is not able to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project, to prepare the water supply assessment after a prescribed consultation.

If the public water system concludes that water supplies are, or will be, insufficient, plans for acquiring additional water supplies are required to be submitted to the city or county. The city or county must include the water supply assessment in any environmental document prepared for the project pursuant to the act. It also requires the city or county to determine whether project water supplies will be sufficient to satisfy the demands of the project, in addition to existing and planned future uses.

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Land Use and Circulation Element Update (LUCE Update) project provides proposed changes to the City's existing Land Use Element and Circulation Elements of the General Plan. The last comprehensive update to the existing Land Use and Circulation Elements occurred in 1994. It is the intent of the proposed LUCE Update to establish and implement a refined set of goals, policies, and programs for regulating development in the City, guiding the land use decision-making process, balancing population growth with infrastructure availability, and providing a true multimodal transportation system that will guide the community over the next 20 years.

The LUCE Update reflects extensive efforts and input from community surveys, workshops and open houses, advisory boards, the Task Force for the Land Use and Circulation Element Update (TF-LUCE), City staff, consultants, the Planning Commission, and City Council. Based on direction from the City Council, the LUCE Update focuses on updated policy language and several areas of the City where "physical" land use changes are proposed. The proposed physical land use changes would apply only to specified areas that over the next 20 years may have the potential to accommodate changes in the land use type or intensity or are in need of circulation and infrastructure improvements.

From a policy aspect, the LUCE Update provides changes to existing policy and program language and proposes new policies and programs where needed to enhance the two elements or cover items not previously addressed. The policies and programs included in the updated Land Use and Circulation Elements are intended to:

- Address notable policy gaps that have been identified over time in the existing LUCE;
- Provide new policy direction to address issues raised during the proposed Project’s public participation process;
- Respond to changes in state law; and
- Address topics or items that the City committed to addressing as part of the Sustainable Communities grant that provided funding for the Update Project.

The Land Use Element Update proposes to “preserve and enhance” existing conditions in most areas of the city. The physical changes proposed by the Land Use Element Update are for the most part limited to changes in land use type or intensity in specific areas. These changes include the promotion of mixed use redevelopment of some sites, the infill of underutilized locations, and four sites that will require modified or new specific plans to addresses development parameters such as the location and types of land uses, infrastructure needs, and designs to address environmental constraints. The Land Use Element Update allows for a potential modification of the Margarita Area Specific Plan to allow modified residential densities, and new specific plans for the San Luis Ranch (formerly known as the Dalidio site), the Madonna property at Los Osos Valley Road (LOVR), and Avila Ranch. Policy was also refined relative to a set of “Special Planning Areas” (Section 8.3.3 in the proposed Land Use Element Update) throughout the city. This policy guidance provides additional direction on the intent of new development, redevelopment, and infill opportunities on these sites (i.e., a statement on the City’s expectations for these sites).

The Circulation Element Update describes how the City plans to provide for the transportation of people and materials within San Luis Obispo with connections to other areas in San Luis Obispo County and beyond. The Circulation Element Update recognizes the implications of land use policy on all modes of movement, and establishes policies, standards, and implementation measures that work with the Land Use Element to address both existing and potential circulation opportunities and deficiencies. But beyond addressing changes in land use, the Circulation Element Update also looks at the circulation system of the community as a whole. Introducing the concept of “complete streets”, the update looks to integrate and enhance all types of circulation in order to create a more comprehensive and functional circulation system.

The proposed Circulation Element provides enhanced policy language that addresses a variety of circulation-related issues, including: traffic reduction; transit; encouraging the use of bicycles and walking; traffic management; future street network changes; truck, air and rail transportation; parking management in commercial areas and residential neighborhoods; and scenic roadways. A new section added to the Circulation Element addresses multi-modal transportation, or the development and maintenance of a circulation system that balances the needs of all modes of circulation.

### **Buildout Projections**

Buildout of the Land Use Element Update could result in approximately 25,601 dwelling units in the LUCE SOI Planning Subarea, an increase of 4,904 units from existing (2013) conditions. Buildout of the Land Use Element Update could result in approximately 5.08 million additional square feet of non-residential uses in the LUCE SOI Planning Subarea when compared to existing conditions.

## **WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT**

The following is a discussion of local water supply planning as it relates to the applicable requirements of Section 10910 of the State Water Code.

### **SB 610 Applicability**

Water Code Section 10910(a) states that projects, as defined in Section 10912, are subject to the requirement to prepare a water supply assessment. A "project" under Section 10912 includes "a project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 unit dwelling project."

Technically, the LUCE Update is not a development project, but rather provides the framework for future development within the city. Therefore, the requirements of Section 10910 of the California Water Code may not apply to the proposed project. Nevertheless, this Water Assessment is provided for informational purposes.

### **Water Supplier**

Water Code Section 10910(b) requires the identification of the public water system that may serve the project. The Water and Wastewater Element of the General Plan, first adopted in 1987 and most recently updated in 2010, specifies that the City shall utilize multiple water resources to meet its water supply needs. Having several sources of water avoids dependence on any one source that may not be available during a drought or other water supply reduction or emergency. With the update of the Water and Wastewater Element 2010, the City Council reaffirmed the policy for a multi-source water supply. Consistent with the multi-source water supply concept, the City obtains water from five sources:

- Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake) and Whale Rock Reservoir: Combined Safe Annual Yield 6,940 AF/year
- Nacimiento Reservoir: 3,380 AF/year dependable yield/ contractual limit
- Recycled water from the City's Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF): 165 AF/year

Groundwater resources resulted in a 100 acre-foot supplemental domestic water supply for the City in 2011. However, due to limitations for the use of the groundwater resources, and consistent with Policy A 3.2.3 from the City's 2010 Water and Wastewater Management Element of the General Plan and Table 16 in Section 4 of the Urban Water Management Plan, the City will continue to use groundwater for domestic purposes when available, but will not consider this source of supply as part of its water resource planning or water supply availability.

## **URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPLICABILITY**

Water Code Section 10910(c)(1) requires a determination of whether or not the proposed project was included in the most recently adopted urban water management plan. In 2010, the City of San Luis Obispo published their Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The water supply and reliability analysis provided by the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan uses historical information since 1941 for evaluation of water supply availability and safe annual yield for the Salinas and Whale Rock Reservoirs. The analysis of water supply availability is based on the controlling drought period for the two reservoirs, which occurred between 1987 and 1991. The table below summarizes the results of that analysis and indicates the City's water resources are reliable during extended drought periods. Through the coordinated operation of Salinas and Whale Rock Reservoirs and the ability to use other available water supplies (Nacimiento, recycled water and limited groundwater), climatic conditions such as prolonged drought do not impact the City's water supply.

**Table 1. Water Supply Reliability**

Average/Normal Water Year (acre feet)	Single Dry Water Year (acre feet)	Multiple Dry Water Years			
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
10,471 (1)	10,471	10,471	10,471	10,471	10,471
Percent of Average/Normal Year	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*(1) Water supply of 10,471 acre feet does not include 500 acre foot siltation buffer and assumes a recycled water supply of 151 acre feet rather than 165 acre feet.*

*Source: 2010 Urban Water Management Plan*

**CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

The City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department provides potable and recycled water to the community and is responsible for water supply, treatment, distribution, and resource planning. The City is the sole water provider within the city limits and most of the City’s water is supplied from multiple surface water sources. However, the City also uses groundwater and recycled water to supplement irrigation demand.

**Surface Water Supply:** The Water and Wastewater Element of the General Plan, first adopted in 1987 and most recently updated in 2010, specifies that the City shall utilize multiple water resources to meet its water supply needs. Having several sources of water avoids dependence on any one source that may not be available during a drought or other water supply reduction or emergency. With the update of the Water and Wastewater Element 2010, the City Council reaffirmed the policy for a multi-source water supply. Consistent with the multi-source water supply concept, the City obtains water from five sources:

- Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake) and Whale Rock Reservoir: Combined Safe Annual Yield 6,940 AF/year
- Nacimiento Reservoir: 3,380 AF/year dependable yield/ contractual limit
- Recycled water from the City’s Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF): 1,000 AF/year buildout demand for landscape irrigation and other permitted uses
- Groundwater: Supplemental usage, 100 AF/year in 2011

The Salinas Reservoir (Santa Margarita Lake) captures water from a 112-square mile watershed and can store up to 23,843 acre feet. Since the late 1940s, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has operated the Salinas Reservoir under a lease from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Water from the reservoir is pumped through the one-mile long Cuesta Tunnel, and then flows by gravity to the City’s Water Treatment Plant on Stenner Creek Road.

The Whale Rock Reservoir is a 40,662 acre-foot reservoir created by the construction of an earthen dam on Old Creek near the town of Cayucos. The Whale Rock Dam captures water from a 20.3 square mile watershed and water is delivered through 17.6 miles of 30-inch pipeline and by two pumping stations. The City of San Luis Obispo owns 55.05 percent of the water storage rights at the reservoir. The remaining water storage rights are divided between the two State agencies with Cal Poly owning 33.71 percent and the California Men’s Colony owning 11.24 percent.

The Nacimiento Reservoir provides flood protection and is a source of supply for groundwater recharge for the Salinas Valley. It is owned and operated by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. Since 1959, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has had an entitlement to 17,500 acre feet per year of water from the reservoir for use in San Luis Obispo County. Approximately 1,750 acre feet per year have been designated for uses around the lake, leaving 15,750 AF/year for allocation to other areas within the County of San Luis Obispo.

A summary of the surface water resources available to the city are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2. Surface Water Resources**

Water Resource	2012 Annual Availability	
Salinas & Whale Rock Reservoirs	6,940 AF	Safe Annual Yield (A)
Nacimiento Reservoir	3,380 AF	Dependable Yield (B)
Recycled Water	165 AF	2011 Annual Usage (C)
Siltation from 2010 to 2060	(500 AF)	WWE Policy A 4.2.2 (D)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,985 AF</b>	

- A. *Quantity of water which can be withdrawn every year while operating both reservoirs in coordinated operations under critical drought conditions (Water and Wastewater Element Policy A 4.2.1).*
- B. *Dependable Yield is the contractual amount of water the City has rights to from Nacimiento Reservoir.*
- C. *The quantity of recycled water included is the actual prior year's recycled water usage (2012) per WEME Policy A 7.2.2.*
- D. *Reservoir siltation is a natural occurrence that reduces storage capacity over long periods, resulting in the reduction of safe annual yield.*

Source: 2013 Water Resources Status Report

**Recycled Water Supply:** Water recycling was envisioned as part of the City's overall water supply strategy since the 1980s. In 1994, the City completed a major capital improvement project at the Water Reclamation Facility that included addition of tertiary treatment and other unit processes required to meet stringent effluent quality limits intended to protect and enhance the receiving waters of San Luis Obispo Creek. While a municipal water reuse program was envisioned at the time of this upgrade, the City did not receive regulatory approvals for diversion of treated effluent for off-site landscape irrigation and other approved uses until 2002.

The City's 2004 Water Reuse Master Plan identifies the areas of the city to be served with recycled water, as well as potential customers and anticipated future recycled water demands. The City completed construction of the Water Reuse Project in 2006 and recycled water deliveries began in October 2006 delivering a total of 7.69 acre-feet (AF) of water. In 2013, recycled water was delivered to 29 sites with total usage over 176 AF per year. A summary of recycled water usage over the past several years is provided in Table 3.



**Table 3. Annual Recycled Water Usage Inventory**

Calendar Year	Annual Recycled Water Usage (AF)	Number of Sites Using Recycled Water
2006	7.69	1
2007	62.36	10
2008	95.75	11
2009	137.36	17
2010	152.63	22
2011	157.65	25
2012	166.71	26
2013	176.82	29

*Sources: City of San Luis Obispo Water and Wastewater Element, 2010;  
Metz, Jennifer, City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department, 2014*

**Groundwater Supply:** The City's major source of water was groundwater and local creeks until 1944 when it began to use water from Salinas Reservoir. As a result of the drought beginning in 1986 and decreasing surface water supplies, the City activated groundwater wells in 1989 to meet water demand. The principal source of groundwater for the city is the San Luis Obispo Groundwater Basin. The basin is fifteen square miles and is drained by San Luis Obispo Creek. It extends from the northern limits of the city and continues southerly along the alignment of the creek to just south of Buckley Road. In the Los Osos Valley area, the basin extends four miles west to the Los Osos Basin, which includes the community of Los Osos/Baywood Park.

In 1990, at the height of the drought, the City had seven potable wells that accounted for approximately 50 percent of the water supplied during that period. The current groundwater program uses one potable well, one non-potable construction water well, and two irrigation wells. Two other of the City's wells were shut down in 1992 and 1993 due to elevated nitrate levels.

The majority of groundwater use from the San Luis Obispo Groundwater Basin is used for agricultural purposes and private property uses. The basin has not been defined to be in overdraft and has not been adjudicated. According to DWR's Bulletin 118, the basin is relatively small and recharges very quickly following normal rainfall years. Because of these factors, no groundwater management plan has been prepared for the basin. In 2011, the City relied on groundwater to supply approximately two percent of the city's annual water demand. The City no longer relies on groundwater for long-term community water demands because of water quality and reliability issues. The City will continue to use groundwater for domestic purposes when available, but will not consider this source of supply as part of its water resources planning.

**Water Demand:** Water use in the city includes single-family, multi-family, commercial (including institutional and industrial), and irrigation customers. No agricultural uses are supplied by City water and the City does not sell water to other agencies. The City does not have additional water demands such as water use for saline barriers, groundwater recharge, etc. In 2011, the total water demand for the city was 5,285 AF, and total demand in 2012 was 5,541 AF. The total water demand for the city in 2005 was 6,098 AF. Even with an increase in population, a decrease in water demand is consistent with nationwide trends, due in part to conservation success and recent recessionary impacts (vacancy rates, etc).

**Per Capita Water Demand:** The total per capita water demand for the city between 2003 and 2012 are summarized in Table 4. The per capita use rate is not the amount that the average person uses but takes into account all water uses including residential, commercial, industrial, and landscape. The ten year annual daily per capita water use in the city is 119 gallons per day.

**Table 4. Daily Per Capita Water Use Summary**

Year	Population	Total Annual Water Use (acre feet)	Annual Daily Per Capita Water Use (gpcd)
2003	44,357	5,968	120
2004	44,298	6,239	126
2005	44,687	6,098	122
2006	44,559	5,999	120
2007	44,433	6,493	130
2008	44,579	6,359	127
2009	44,829	6,134	122
2010	44,948	5,489	109
2011	45,419	5,285	104
2012	45,308	5,541	109
Ten Year Per Capita Average			119

Source: 2013 Water Resources Status Report

**Distribution and Storage:** The City’s water distribution system delivers potable water from the treatment plant and one well to customers and fire hydrants via two storage reservoirs, eight pump stations, ten water tanks, and approximately 185 miles of water mains. The city has approximately 14,500 metered potable water customers. The goal of the distribution system is to provide uninterrupted water flow at adequate pressures to meet all fire and domestic flow requirements while minimizing water loss due to leakage.

The City-operated surface water treatment plant is located on Stenner Creek Road, northwest of the Cal Poly campus. The plant was originally constructed in 1964 with a design capacity of eight million gallons per day (MGD). Multiple upgrades have occurred to the plant increasing the total capacity to 16.0 MGD. The treatment plant is a conventional plant that includes ozone disinfection, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration. Ozone disinfection has allowed the city to meet the trihalomethane limits enforced by the EPA. Currently, the treatment plant meets all compliance regulations.

**Water Conservation Program:** Water conservation was first referenced as a part of the City's water management policy in 1973. In 1985, the City adopted the Annual Water Operational Plan policy, establishing water conservation as a means of extending water supplies during projected water shortages. Since 1985, many technological and philosophical changes have occurred which are proving water conservation to be both a short-term corrective measure for immediate water supply shortages and a long-term solution to water supply reliability.

Experience from the drought of 1986 to 1991, the City developed a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to deal with immediate, short-term water shortages. The Plan is designed to require mandatory actions when there is a projected three year supply of water remaining from available water resources. The Plan uses a combination of water allocations based on customer classification and water use surcharges for exceeding the allocation as a means to decrease water use during critical water shortages. For instance, residential customers are given a water allocation based on the average water use for multi- or single-family households having three occupants. If there are more residents, additional water may be allocated with sufficient proof. Commercial customers are allocated water either by a reduction based on their historical water use or by the

average water use by business type. Surcharges for exceeding a water allocation results in their bill either doubling or tripling depending on the actual amount of water used. The Plan is also a required component of the City's Urban Water Management Plan which is updated every five years per State Water Code.

The City also recognizes the importance of long-term water efficiency by supporting programs that will enhance water supply reliability and comply with any current and/or future state mandates in water use reductions. In 2009, Senate Bill X7-7 was passed requiring water agencies to reduce per capita water use by 20 percent by the year 2020. The City's target per capita water use would be 117 gallons per day. In terms of water supply reliability the City was one of the original signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Urban Water Conservation and has actively pursued the implementation of the water efficiency best management practices (BMPs) prescribed in the MOU. The MOU was a negotiated agreement between water purveyors statewide and environmental organizations on how best to utilize the State's water resources by incorporating conservation into their water management practices.

The BMPs have been developed over the years by water purveyors, environmental groups, and industry stakeholders. They represent the best available water conservation practices based on research and experience and include:

- Water conservation pricing and rate structures,
- Technical assistance for water customers,
- Incentives for indoor and outdoor water saving technologies,
- Public information and outreach, and
- Water audits.

#### **ENTITLEMENTS/REGULATORY APPROVALS**

Water Code Section 10910(d)(2) requires the identification of existing water supply entitlements, water rights, or water service contracts, federal, state, and local permits for construction of necessary infrastructure, and any regulatory approvals required in order to be able to deliver the water supply.

The City's entitlements are described above in the section describing water supply. Since the General Plan update is not a development plan, but would rather accommodate future development initiatives, no regulatory approvals or additional entitlements are required at this time.

#### **PROJECT IMPACTS**

As required by Section 5 of the City's Water and Wastewater Element, the City will account for water supplies necessary to meet three specific community needs, including primary water supply, reliability reserve, and secondary water supply.

The primary water supply is defined as the amount of water needed to serve the build-out population of the city as identified in the Land Use Element of the General Plan. The quantity of water needed for the primary water supply is calculated using the ten-year average of actual per capita water use and the city's build-out population. The ten year average per capita water use is 119 acre feet. The proposed LUCE buildout population is estimated to be 58,626 people, which is based on 25,601 dwelling units at general plan buildout and a typical dwelling unit occupancy of 2.29 persons per unit.

The reliability reserve provides a buffer for future unforeseen or unpredictable long-term impacts to the City's available water supply. The quantity of water for the reliability reserve is established using twenty percent of the ten-year average of actual per capita water use and the City's current population (45,541 in 2013).

The secondary water supply is the amount of water remaining from the City’s available water resources above those needed to meet the primary water supply and reliability reserve. The secondary supply is identified to meet peak water demand periods or short-term loss of City water supply sources.

LUCE Update EIR Project Description Table 2.4-4 (Total Future Development Capacity within the Planning Subarea) provides an estimate of the additional dwelling unit capacity of the proposed Land Use Element Update. The table indicates that by 2035, buildout of the proposed Land Use Element could provide an additional 4,904 dwelling units. When added to the current (2013) number of dwelling units in the city (20,697), buildout of the LUCE Update could provide approximately 25,601 residential units in the city and could support a population of approximately 58,626. Based on the calculations below, the primary water supply required for estimated buildout conditions resulting from the proposed Land Use Element would be 7,815 acre feet per year. A per capita water demand of 119 gallons per day has been used for this calculation, although compliance with the water reduction requirements of SBX7-7 would reduce per capita water use to 117 gallons per day by 2020.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Primary Water Supply} &= \text{Ten Year Average per Capita Water Use} \times \text{City Buildout Population} \\
 &= 119 \text{ gal/cap-day} \times 58,626 \text{ cap} \times 365 \text{ day/year} \times \text{Acre-Ft}/325,853 \text{ gal} \\
 &= 7,815 \text{ Acre-Ft/year.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Table 5 summarizes water supply and demand conditions associated with the buildout of the proposed Land Use Element. As shown, the amount of water required to serve estimated buildout conditions under proposed 2035 buildout conditions (7,815 acre feet per year) would not exceed total water supplies available to the city (9,980 acre feet per year). Buildout of the proposed Land Use Element would increase the City’s water use from 5,541 acre feet in 2012 to 7,815 acre feet in 2035, an increase of 2,274 acre feet per year over existing conditions.

**Table 5. Proposed Land Use Element Buildout Water Supply**

Primary Water Supply	Reliability Reserve	Secondary Water Supply	Total Water Supply
7,815 AF	1,214 AF	951 AF	9,980 AF

Much of the residential unit growth that would be facilitated by the LUCE Update would occur in proposed specific plan areas, including the San Luis Ranch, Madonna on LOVR, and Avila Ranch Specific Plans. In total, the proposed specific plan areas would have the potential to provide approximately 1,315 residential units. The proposed South Broad Street Area Plan would also have the potential to facilitate the development of an additional 589 dwelling units. Based on a dwelling unit occupancy of 2.29 people per unit, and a per capita water use of 119 gallons per day, the combined water use of the proposed specific and area plans would be approximately 582 acre feet per year. The additional water used by the proposed specific plans and area plan is approximately 26 percent of the city-wide increase in water use (an increase of 2,274 acre feet per year) over existing conditions (5,541 acre feet in 2012) that would result from buildout of the entire proposed Land Use Element.

Senate Bill No. 610 (Costa) became effective January 1, 2002. The bill requires a city or county which determines that a “project” (as defined in Water Code § 10912) is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to identify any public water system that may supply water for the project and to request those public water systems to prepare a specified water supply assessment. It should be noted that SB 221

(Kuehl) also requires a similar assessment, but this law only applies to residential subdivisions of more than 500 dwelling units. Because this is a General Plan Update (and not a residential subdivision development), SB 221 does not apply.

The water supply and reliability analysis provided by the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan uses historical information since 1941 for evaluation of water supply availability and safe annual yield for the Salinas and Whale Rock Reservoirs. The analysis of water supply availability is based on the controlling drought period for the two reservoirs, which occurred between 1987 and 1991. Table 6 summarizes the results of that analysis and indicates the City’s water resources are reliable during extended drought periods. Through the coordinated operation of Salinas and Whale Rock Reservoirs and the ability to use other available water supplies (Nacimiento, recycled water and limited groundwater), climatic conditions such as prolonged drought do not impact the City’s water supply.

**Table 6. Water Supply Reliability**

Average/Normal Water Year (acre feet)	Single Dry Water Year (acre feet)	Multiple Dry Water Years			
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
10,471 (1)	10,471	10,471	10,471	10,471	10,471
Percent of Average/Normal Year	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*(1) Water supply of 10,471 acre feet does not include 500 acre foot siltation buffer and assumes a recycled water supply of 151 acre feet rather than 165 acre feet.*

*Source: 2010 Urban Water Management Plan*

The LUCE Update would result in less than significant water supply impacts as the City would have sufficient water supplies available to serve future development that may occur with the implementation of the proposed Land Use Element. No mitigation measures are required.

**REFERENCES**

Reports/Publications

- San Luis Obispo, City of. General Plan – Chapter 8 Water and Wastewater Management Element. Adopted February 24, 1987, Revised July 6, 2010.
- San Luis Obispo, City of. 2013 Water Resource Status Report. Adopted November 19, 2012.
- San Luis Obispo, City of. 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. Adopted June 21, 2011.

Websites

- San Luis Obispo, City of. <http://www.slocity.org>, August 10, 2012.
- San Luis Obispo, County of. <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov>, August 10, 2012.
- California Department of Public Health. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>, August 10, 2012.
- California Department of Water Resources. <http://www.water.ca.gov>, August 10, 2012.

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