



The City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department

RESOURCE

MANAGING COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE

ANOTHER GREAT WEATHER RESOURCE

In 2007, the Water Reclamation Facility (wastewater treatment) installed a weather station to allow the staff to monitor rainfall amounts during winter storms, and to monitor humidity during the summer. Winter rainfall can greatly increase the flow of water into the facility through leaky sewer laterals from a home or business. Being able to monitor a storm's progression helps the staff adjust for the increased flows so untreated wastewater is not accidentally discharged into the creek. During the summer, the City needs to change the temperature of the water released from the facility into San Luis Obispo Creek to match the natural temperature in the creek. This is done to protect the aquatic environment. The weather station helps the staff do this by measuring humidity, which in turn assists in the adjustment of the evaporative water-cooling process.

This may sound well and good but there is an added benefit for you. The weather station also monitors and calculates a watering index which estimates the amount of water needed for landscape irrigation. The index is normally 100 percent for the hottest time of the year on the Central Coast — much of July and August. Over the course of the year the Watering Index changes to reflect the landscape's changing need for water as climatic conditions change. As the Watering Index changes, your controller should be adjusted to match the current watering index value.



Check it out at <http://www.weatherelement.com/slo-wrf> and start saving water and money by irrigating according to the weather and what the plants need. The site also has many other features that provide complete weather information for the San Luis Obispo area.

NEW SEWER CAPS IN PLACE

Your water and sewer bill in August will reflect the new sewer cap you established during the "Average Winter Water Use" period last December, January and February. The volume-based sewer rate structure implemented in 2007 has been a great success going from a flat rate billing system where every residential customer paid the same no matter how much sewage they generated, to a system based on actual use that is much more equitable. If you have any questions on how your sewer bill is calculated, go to the Utilities Department website at www.slocity.org/utilities and click on "How to Calculate Your Water and Sewer Bill" for more information.

Water and sewer customers also have the option to access water and sewer account information online by clicking on "Billing and Rates," then choosing the online access option. We are committed to providing the highest level of service possible and are pleased to provide customers with the option to:

- Make water and sewer bill payments online as needed, or
- Sign up for monthly utility bills to be paid automatically from a debit or credit card
- View and compare water use and account transaction history
- Sign up for water and sewer service

Paying your water and sewer bill has never been easier!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Pet Clean Up | Construction Projects | The Water Journey

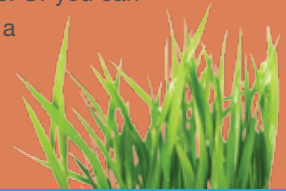
CLEAN UP AFTER PETS FOR HEALTHY FAMILIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Pet waste is something every pet owner must deal with, but no one really likes to talk about it. Fact is the majority of community and neighborhood pet problems result from the inappropriate handling of pet waste. It is tough to always do the right thing, but there are some interesting facts you should know.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a single gram of dog feces can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria (that's the bad stuff) known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness and serious kidney disorders in humans. The EPA estimates that two or three days' worth of droppings from a population of about 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria to temporarily close a bay and all watershed areas within 20 miles to swimming and shell fishing. In fact, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

says that pet droppings can contribute to diseases that animals can pass on to humans.

When infected dog feces are deposited on your lawn or in a park, the eggs of certain roundworms and other parasites can linger in your soil for years. Anyone who comes into contact with that soil, be it through gardening, playing sports, walking barefoot or any other means, runs the risk of becoming infected. There are a couple of options for disposal. You can flush it down the toilet where it will be treated just like human waste. Or you can throw it in the trash, if properly contained in a bag. Proper disposal of pet waste is very important for the health of our waterways and the health of our families.



THE WATER JOURNEY: WHERE DOES IT COME FROM AND WHERE DOES IT GO?

This is a first in a series of articles intended to inform you, the water and sewer rate payers, about the journey water takes to reach homes and businesses, and what happens to it when it goes down a drain or toilet. Along the way we'll highlight some of the various Utilities Department sections. Let's start with the question:

Where Does Our Water Come From?

The City of San Luis Obispo adopted a multi-source water supply strategy back in the early 1990s and gets its water from five different sources. Three of these sources are reservoirs: Salinas Reservoir (also known as Santa Margarita Lake), Whale Rock Reservoir (located above the town of Cayucos), and soon Nacimiento Lake (located outside of the City of Paso Robles).



Of the three reservoirs used, Whale Rock Reservoir is the only one directly staffed and operated by the City of San Luis Obispo. The Whale Rock Reservoir's three-man crew maintains the dam, two pump stations and approximately 17 miles of pipeline.

The City uses a limited amount of groundwater since the groundwater basin is relatively small and there are water quality

issues. Because of the size of the basin, this is not considered a highly reliable water source but does provide added flexibility to the operation of the water system. The fifth source of water is from the Recycled Water Program. Recycled water is highly treated wastewater that can be used for irrigation and therefore reduce the amount of drinking water that is needed for this purpose.

The multi-source water supply strategy has created a very secure and reliable water supply for the community and is something we can all be proud of. In the next Resource, we will look at the water treatment system.



FIGURE 1: Multi-Source Water Supply

Reservoir City Limits Conveyance Pipelines

Source: City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department, 2010.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Construction Projects Recently Completed

Water Reuse Improvements and User Site Upgrades	\$35,000	<p>This project expanded the water reuse system, with installation of new services and irrigation improvements that connected the existing recycled water mains to the following locations: DeVaul Park, Los Osos Valley Road Medians near Madonna Road, and the residential tract at Los Verdes near South Higuera and Los Osos Valley Road. This water reuse expansion project was completed in April 2010, including user site upgrades and connectivity, and increased recycled water deliveries for irrigation and non-potable uses.</p>
Utility Trench Repair	\$105,000	<p>Throughout the year, Utilities Department Water Distribution staff performs emergency repairs to water pipelines under city streets. Once these repairs are made, the trenches are backfilled and temporary asphalt patches are placed at the surface of the road. At least once annually, these temporary patches are replaced with a stronger and more permanent asphalt patch performed under a separate contract. This contracted project repaired over 180 utility trenches in city streets throughout the community over a period of three months, with project completion in April 2010. This utility trench repair work also improves the road surface making it smoother for your travels.</p>

Construction Projects in Progress

Rich Court Sewer Line Repair	Estimated at \$90,800	<p>This sewer line replacement project is located in a ten-foot wide easement at the rear of properties on San Mateo Drive and Rich Court. The project includes removal and replacement of the aged and deteriorating sewer line. Construction work in this easement is constrained by limited access, utility poles, overhead utilities, mature trees, fences and retaining walls. This project is currently in construction and moving forward smoothly, with project completion planned for early August 2010.</p>
Waterline Improvements	Estimated at \$406,600	<p>Replacement of water distribution pipes and related facilities is an on-going program to replace aging and deteriorating infrastructure. The assumed useful life expectancy of water lines is 50 years. The waterlines included in this project were originally installed in 1942 or earlier and have seen an increase in required maintenance and emergency repairs in recent years. Replacement of these waterlines will ensure reliable water services, enhance available fire flows, and reduce customer impacts that would otherwise be associated with emergency repairs. This project includes waterlines at the following locations: Toro Street – Phillips to Higuera; Ella Street – Ruth to Osos (end); and Rachel Court – Rachel to end. This project is currently in construction with project completion planned for late August 2010.</p>

...continued on page 4

IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME... TO TURN DOWN YOUR IRRIGATION

You're thinking, "It's only late August and you're talking about turning down my irrigation time?" What most people don't know is that with the lower angle of the sun and as the nights cool, your lawn and garden's water needs decrease dramatically through September and October. In fact by October your lawn needs about half as much water as it needs in August. For best results, we recommend the suggested Summer/Fall lawn irrigation guide. Be sure to do some monitoring to make certain you are not overwatering. Divide watering time into three or four days, and be sure to check for runoff. For a complete irrigation schedule for all your plants, check the City of San Luis Obispo's web site at www.slocity.org/utilities.

SUGGESTED SUMMER/FALL LAWN IRRIGATION GUIDE

Month	Irrigation Minutes per Week
August	60 minutes /week
September	45 minutes /week
October	30 minutes /week
November	as needed

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Construction Projects in Progress Continued

Water Reclamation Facility Clarifier No. 5 Servicing & Recoating	Estimated at \$230,000	<p>Clarifier No. 5 was originally constructed in 1994 as part of a major upgrade at the City Water Reclamation Facility. After 16 years of service, the protective coatings were showing signs of deterioration. This project includes servicing and recoating the Clarifier No. 5 equipment and walls to protect the underlying surfaces from deterioration and structural damage that would require more costly repairs or replacement. Servicing includes installation of sacrificial anodes to provide added protection to the submerged mechanical equipment. In addition to Clarifier No. 5, this project includes specialized industrial recoating of a chlorine contact station and cooling tower station at the City Water Reclamation Facility. This project is currently under construction with projection completion planned for early September 2010.</p>
Rosemont Water Pump Station Replacement	Estimated at \$325,000	<p>The Rosemont Water Pump Station Replacement project includes two phases. The first phase included removal and abandonment of the nearby Highland Water Tank located near the top of Highland Drive, which was approximately 50 years old. The second phase is the construction of a building to house the rebuilt Rosemont Water Pump Station, which will increase water flows, enhancing water service reliability in the area. The residents served by the old Highland Water Tank will be served by the nearby Ferrini Water Tank. Project completion is planned for early Fall 2010.</p>
Water Treatment Plant Roof Repairs and Replacement	Estimated at \$76,600	<p>Construction to repair and replace the roof on the ozone building at the City Water Treatment Plant begins in August. This project includes efforts up front to prevent construction material from entering the water treatment processes and operations. Project completion is planned for early Fall 2010.</p>

Construction Projects Pending Contract Awards

Waterline Improvements at Various Locations	Engineer's Estimate \$598,400	<p>The scope of this project includes waterline improvements at sections of Phillips, Grove, Park, Caudill, Chandler, Perkins and Sweeney Streets.</p>
Recycled Waterline Expansion	Engineer's Estimate \$460,620	<p>The project includes expansion of the recycled water main on Higuera Street from approximately 350 feet north of Prado Road to Margarita, then to Calle Jazmin.</p>
Sewerline Replacements	Engineer's Estimate \$533,190	<p>The scope of this project includes replacing and upsizing sewerlines at sections of Pacific, Pismo, Santa Rosa and Toro Streets.</p>

