Join the Conversation About SLO Forward

SLO Forward is a conversation with the community about the future needs, challenges, and vision of San Luis Obispo. The City is engaging the community about the services, maintenance and infrastructure that supports our character and maintains our quality of life.

Together, we can find local solutions that maintain quality of life, now and into the future. Through conversations with community members, a list of top priorities has emerged:

- Requiring all funds used locally to benefit the community
- Protecting creeks from pollution
- Addressing homelessness
- Maintaining police, fire/emergency response
- Keeping public areas safe and clean
- Helping ensure children have safe places to play
- Protecting open space and natural areas
- Protecting long-term fiscal stability
- Preparing for wildfires and other natural disasters
- Repairing streets and potholes

We are continuing to have the conversation with the community to ensure these are your top priorities. Please fill out the community survey on your highest priorities.

The feedback will be presented to the City Council in late spring/early summer to ensure the City has the resources to continue providing the services, maintenance and infrastructure the community values most.

If you would like a City Staff member to speak to you about SLO Forward, contact Ryan Betz at 805-781-7589 or RBetz@slocity.org.

Monterey Bay Community Power Becomes Primary Electricity Provider for San Luis Obispo

Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) began delivering cost savings and other clean-energy benefits to residents and businesses in San Luis Obispo earlier this month.

MBCP has already energized significant economic and environmental progress in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties since its March 2018 launch and will expand on these benefits by growing its service area along the Central Coast.

“This is an opportunity to accelerate meaningful and equitable change that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stimulates the local economy through energy programs and cost savings.”

Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP), an electric utility owned by its customers, delivers clean, cost-saving electricity to more than 100,000 customers in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. MBCP began delivering savings and other clean-energy benefits to residents and businesses in San Luis Obispo earlier this month.

“Joining MBCP gives our community an opportunity to accelerate meaningful and equitable change that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stimulates the local economy through energy programs and cost savings.”

“I am proud to support a vision of a carbon-free future for all. Our community has seen the impacts of fossil fuel pollution and climate change here in our town and across California,” said San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon. “Joining MBCP gives our community an opportunity to accelerate meaningful and equitable change that helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stimulates the local economy through energy programs and cost savings.”
Participate in the U.S. Census

Every 10 years, the United States takes on an enormous task: counting all the people who live in the country and recording basic information about them, such as age, sex, and race.

But why should you care? What’s in it for the residents of San Luis Obispo? Here are four ways the Census shapes our future.

**Fair representation.** The census ensures that our community gets its fair share of representatives in government. The data collected by the census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used in local redistricting, which is the redrawing of district lines to ensure that local legislative representation is fair and balanced. The federal government uses the census information to determine how many members of Congress each state will have. If California’s population is undercounted, this will impact our state’s congressional representation.

**Federal funding.** The census helps with equitable distribution of public funds from the federal government to local educational programs, health care, law enforcement, highways, and more. In fact, in the last fiscal year the County of San Luis Obispo received $74.6 million in federal funding for various programs, including public health services, child welfare services, and emergency response management grants, much of which was allocated based on census information.

**Identify needs for new schools and hospitals.** Data collected from the Census will also help determine local school districts and help communities like ours plan for new schools and hospitals.

**Economic impacts.** It can help boost the local economy, as companies use census data to decide where to open new locations and create jobs.

By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share the data with immigration or law enforcement agencies or allow it to determine eligibility for government benefits.

Residents will start receiving letters from the U.S. Census Bureau in March to complete the census. To learn more about the County’s 2020 Census outreach efforts, visit [slocounty.ca.gov/2020CensusOutreach](http://slocounty.ca.gov/2020CensusOutreach).

For more information regarding the Monterey Bay Community Power enrollment for San Luis Obispo, please visit [mbcp.org/enrollment](http://mbcp.org/enrollment).

Credit: Brittany App