PANDEMIC RESPONSE

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year and the City of San Luis Obispo has been working very hard to keep everyone informed of the quickly changing situation COVID-19 has presented us with. We are working closely the SLO County Public Health to provide timely information that is shared on the City's website, via multiple social media channels and e-notifications, which anyone can sign up for. We encourage everyone to continue to keep themselves informed and reach out with questions when they arise. The following are weblinks and phone numbers to City and County resources for COVID-19 response.

City of SLO COVID-19
SLO County Public Health
SLO County Phone Assistance Center 805-543-2444
City of SLO Business & Community Hotline 805-783-7835

We are going to get through this together, we are a strong and resilient community.

www.slocity.org
READY - SET - GO

San Luis Obispo Fire Department is hosting a FREE public webinar for community members wanting to learn more about the Ready-Set-Go program on Wednesday - July 15, 2020 at 6pm.

Join the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, and Fire Marshal as they discuss the Ready-Set-Go program and how you can keep yourself, home, and family safe this fire season. Please register by visiting this link. The webinar ID is 870-926-635.

FIRE PREVENTION

Wildfire season is May-October. Recent local fires serve as stark reminders that peak wildfire season is upon us, and the San Luis Obispo Fire Department is encouraging all community members to take the time now to prepare. Community members can help create a defensible space around their home and reduce the threat of wildfire by following the four “R”s of vegetation management: Removal, Reduction, Replacement and Resistant.

- Remove all dead vegetation within 100’ of home, all vegetation within 10’ of a chimney, and move wood piles at least 30’ from home.
- Reduce vegetation within 100’ of your home, Space shrubs in groups of 3 with 15’ spacing between groups, Trim plants to 2’ or lower within 10’ of your home and provide for horizontal and vertical separation between trees and shrubs.
- Replace highly combustible plant species with recommended species and ensure proper spacing between new plants.
- Fire-resistant species should be utilized when possible and continue to reduce dead material and thin fire-resistant species.

Properties that have tall green grass in the winter but dry out and present a hazard during the summer should be abated prior to June 1st. SLOFD will be enforcing weed abatement throughout the year if they pose a fire threat. Please comply with the following guidelines:

- Mow overgrown lawns
- Clear empty lots to no more than 4” high (mow, disc, scrape or rototill). This includes any vegetation that may be green now but dries later. Remove cuttings.
- Clear dead leaves, weeds and brush from your property.
- Remove dead bushes and dead trees or tree limbs (dead pines are an example).
- Remove excess trash, wood, mattresses, and other combustibles from the property.
- Keep stacked lumber/wood or any combustibles 3 ft. from neighbor’s fences; no higher than 3 ft.
- Additional regulations may apply to properties located in hazardous fire areas.

For more information on wildfire preparedness including a Ready-Set-Go wildfire action plan, visit www.slocity.org/wildfire.
OPEN SPACE FUEL REDUCTION

The City recently completed just over 7 weeks of time with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) on fuel reduction projects in four City open spaces. Removal of dead, down and non-native vegetation was occurred along the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), where natural open space intersects with developed and residential properties. Places where these projects were undertaken include: Terrace Hill Open Space, Bowden Ranch (Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve), Irish Hills Natural Reserve and along Prefumo Creek where homes back up to the creek channel. This was a great partnership for helping City crews with maintenance in our open space properties. Removal of dead and overgrown vegetation is not only a significant help in the prevention of fire potentially breaking out, it is also a safety factor. Having clear line of sight will help all users of our open space properties have a safe and enjoyable experience. A “Shaded Fuel Break” is a concept where removing dense vegetation and dead material can prevent fire from climbing higher in the tree canopy through the removal of ladder fuels and further treating ground fuel (dead material and leaf litter). The City will be looking to partner with the CCC in the coming years to expand on projects like this along the WUI.
NEW PARKING DISTRICTS ARE ACTIVE

On January 21, 2020, the San Luis Obispo City Council approved the formation of one new residential parking district and the expansion of an existing parking district. The new district is located on Dana Street adjacent to downtown and will include a 2-hour timed parking overlay within the district. Streets Buena Vista, Santa Ynez and San Miguel has been added to Monterey Heights district. Signs are posted and permits have been distributed. Questions? Please contact Parking Supervisor Alex Fuchs at 805-781-7533 or afuchs@slocity.org.

ONLINE REPORTING

Early in 2020, the San Luis Obispo Police Department launched online reporting. This web based tool allows for residents to report low level crime to the department without requiring in-person response. There are five (5) types of crimes that can be reported: annoying communications (such as fraud phone calls), hit and run (no witness), lost property, theft of property under $950, and vandalism/graffiti.

All incidents reported online are reviewed by command staff. If further investigation is needed, an officer will contact you for additional information and follow-up. All personal information shared is secured and encrypted for your protection. Visit the PD website to access the online portal.

INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY CRIME MAP

The Police Department crime map has undergone an upgrade! This interactive tool provides users with the ability to see the types and locations of various crimes occurring in the city. Visit the website to find your neighborhood.

Users can select specific time periods, types of crimes and specific locations.
Downtown Parking as of July 6, 2020

Parking Meters
Beginning July 27, we will begin charging for parking at ALL 30-minute and 2-hour meters. (10-hour meters will still be FREE for use.)

Parking Garages
Garages are still FREE for daytime use. When gates are down, customers will need to insert ticket into the automated station in order to exit.

Enforcement

Orange Curbside Pickup Bags
Are for food and retail pick-up. Vehicles displaying a disabled placard or plate can park at these locations beyond the 15-minute time limit.

White Zones & Yellow Zones
Allow for pick-up and drop-off for up to 15-minutes max. Commercial vehicles MUST use yellow zones for deliveries.

Red Bagged Meters
Are for construction purposes only. NO PARKING anytime. Spaces are strictly enforced.

Open SLO
The City is excited to welcome you to the Open SLO experience, a new pilot program to expand the use of City streets and other public spaces for outdoor dining, shopping, and strolling.

Open SLO will use Mission Plaza, Monterey Street and Higuera Street within the downtown to allow our community members to come together and enjoy our City while remaining physically distant and following guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

For dates, times and a map of the streets, visit OpenSLO.org

For additional information, visit our website slocity.org, email us at parkinginfo@slocity.org or call our office at 805-781-7230
ROADWAY RESEALING

Construction is moving forward at the end of July for the Roadway Sealing Project 2020! The project is expected to last through October and will include resealing neighborhood streets in the neighborhoods south of downtown and some in the Oceanaire neighborhood. The project includes several safety improvements including neighborhood greenways on Nipomo, Islay and Morro Streets to improve the walking and biking environments, complete street enhancements on Pismo Street between Santa Rosa and Higuera, and high visibility pedestrian crossings with flashing beacons at Broad/Islay, High/Hutton and South/King. For construction updates throughout the project, visit Resealing2020.com.

CITY RECOGNIZED AS BEST BICYCLE CITY

The City of San Luis Obispo has been rated as the best city in the United States for biking, according to annual ratings recently released by PeopleForBikes, a national non-profit organization promoting bicycling for transportation and recreation.

The PeopleForBikes City Ratings program is a data-driven analysis that evaluates more than 550 cities and towns and shows city leaders how they can invest to make bicycling better for all community members and visitors. Ratings are scored across five key indicators:

- Ridership (how many people are riding bikes);
- Safety (how safe is it to ride bikes);
- Network (how easy is it for people to bike where they want to go);
- Reach (how well the network serves all parts of the community); and
- Acceleration (how fast the community is working to improve biking).
WATER & SEWER INCREASE DEFERRED

In June 2019, the City Council adopted a two year water and sewer rate increase: water to increase by 5.5% in 2019 and 5.5% in 2020 and sewer to increase by 5.5% in 2019 and 5% in 2020. The 2019 increase was implemented on July 1, 2019.

The 2020 rate increase was scheduled for July 1, 2020 but has been deferred. The 2020 rate increase has already been subject to the legally required Proposition 218 notification process and approved by the City Council.

Please visit the Utilities website for more information about the rate increase.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

The City of San Luis Obispo Water Treatment Plant partnered with PG&E to upgrade their equipment used to disinfect the City’s drinking water. The upgrade is especially important because the new equipment uses less energy to perform water treatment. Construction began in May and the project will be completed summer of 2021. During construction, the Water Treatment Plant will navigate the operational complexities of operating its existing treatment process while building a new one, and as a result the City will have a new, energy efficient plant.
Important Notice

If you or anyone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19 or are exhibiting symptoms, please put recyclables in the trash, unless heightened measures have been taken to ensure absolute sterility of the items + bin.

Why?

Putting potentially contaminated recyclables in your bin exposes sorting line workers to the virus.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), like gloves + masks, should be bagged + disposed of in your garbage bin, not your recycle bin.

Why?

Most PPE is not recyclable in nature + putting potentially contaminated PPE in your recycling bin exposes sorting line workers to the virus.

Keeping our Solid Waste + Recycling Workers Safe

slocity.org/covid19
MARSH STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Marsh Street Bridge, located between Osos Street and Santa Rosa Street at the San Luis Obispo Creek crossing, has stood for over a hundred years; however, in 2008, a bridge inspection by Caltrans determined that the bridge was structurally deficient to the point where repair or replacement was necessary. Damage was identified that affected the structural stability of the bridge and would eventually lead to its closure. A complete replacement of the bridge was determined to be the best option for longevity and cost-savings. Along with replacement of the bridge, an aging and deteriorating sewer main underneath the bridge will be replaced with a more efficient line. To highlight the historical significance of the original bridge, new lighting will be installed that will replicate the original kerosene fixtures what would be lit every evening. The new pedestrian lighting poles will be equipped with energy-efficient LED fixtures.

Construction began in late-spring and is expect to conclude by the end of the year. Regular updates are provided on the bridge website.
PLANNING & HOUSING - VIRTUALLY DOING BUSINESS!

The City’s Community Development Department (CDD) is still fully functional during the pandemic closure! CDD staff moved quickly upon the closure of City offices to move business to online and digital forums, which include:

- Virtual Interactive Inspections
- Online Planning Application Submittals
- Online Payments for Application and Permit Fees

For more information on these programs and other digital business practices, please visit the Community Development webpage.

HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

The update to the City’s Housing Element of the General Plan is nearing the final stretch of completion! In the Spring of 2020, the Project Team published an online survey to help the finalize policies and programs for the Housing Element. On June 7th, staff presented the preliminary policies and programs to the Planning Commission for feedback, which resulted in very few changes to the proposed content. Community Development Department staff is currently incorporating those changes into the document and will be going back to the Planning Commission on July 22nd to present the entire Draft Document. For the most up-to-date information on this project, please visit the online Housing Element webpage or contact Rachel Cohen rcohen@slocity.org for more information.

CARES ACT ASSISTANCE

On March 27, 2020 the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19.

The CARES Act included supplemental formula allocations to the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department’s programs, including the Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) and Emergency Solutions Grant-Coronavirus (ESG-CV) for the Urban County of San Luis Obispo. The additional CDBG and ESG CARES Act funds allocated to the Urban County was $1,099,800 and $563,034 respectively.

The City participates in the Urban County of San Luis Obispo, and was therefore involved in the distribution of this Federal grant allocation. After much deliberation with County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building Staff, the County’s Homeless Services Coordinator, and local homeless service providers, the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) met to consider the funding recommendations for approval by the County Board of Supervisors. Recommended projects to be facilitated by CAPSLO, 5Cities Homeless Coalition, RISE of SLO County, the Salvation Army, and Transitional Food & Shelter were reviewed by the Board on June 16th. For more information on the CARES Act and projects recommended for funding, please visit the County’s website.
NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT ~ JAN - MAY 2020

Neighborhood Blight Code Enforcement

- Visible Storage    77
- Waste Containers  118
- Vegetation        152
- Yard Parking      53
- Fence             0
- Furniture on Roof 6
- Other*            12
  Total             418

*Signs, address ID, encroachment in right-of-way

Neighborhood & Residential District Parking Enforcement

- No Residential Permit 492
- Overtime              190
- Over 18 inches/Wrong way 68
- Prohibited Parking  203
- Fire Hydrant          12
- Fire Lane             24
- Blocking Driveway     15
  Total                1,004

Noise/Party Calls

![Noise Party: Jan - May 2020](chart.png)
THEFT - IT CAN BE PREVENTED

Thefts from vehicles continue to be a problem throughout our community, both in downtown and the neighborhoods as well as at open space trail heads. We need your help! Please take everything out of your cars, lock items in the trunk if needed and lock up the car. If hiking or biking the open space, please do not bring ANY valuables with you, leave everything at home. There are thefts happening weekly from trail heads, both unlocked vehicles and window smashes. Wallets, purses, laptops, cash...you name it, it's stolen.

If you drive a pickup, please do not leave anything loose in the truck bed (surfboards, tools, bikes, anything!) as those items are easily stolen.

If you are a cyclist, please use U-locks when securing your bike to a rack through the front tire and the frame. Do not leave bikes unsecured at home in the backyard or in an unlocked garage. Please also consider registering your bike(s) with SLOPD so if stolen and recovered, we can get the bike back to you.

FAQS - USE OF FORCE

The San Luis Obispo Police Department has provided an extensive and thorough response to community questions on the departments' use of force policies and the 8Can'tWait call to action. Please visit the SLOPD website to learn about department policies, efforts in this community to promote community policing, build relationships, increase department diversity, and provide education opportunities for both the community and police department staff to work towards meaningful change where is is needed.

SLOPD deeply values connection with this community, from residents in neighborhoods to business owners to campus partners to other government agencies and non-profits. It's these connections that make San Luis Obispo and incredible place to live, work and play. SLOPD acknowledges that the negative actions or inaction in other communities erodes the trust we have built in this community; we see community engagement not as an end, but as a continuing necessity to ensure the safety of our community.