



# 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

**(PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT)**

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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The City’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) establishes the framework the City will use to prepare for and respond to water shortage conditions. A water shortage may occur when available water supplies are insufficient to meet anticipated customer demands or when operational, regulatory, environmental, or emergency conditions limit the City’s ability to access, convey, treat, or deliver water supplies.

The California Department of Water Resources defines drought as:

*“A deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector.”*

Water shortages may result from drought, climate change, infrastructure failure, water quality impacts, regulatory restrictions, power outages, seismic events, wildfire, flooding, or other emergency conditions. Because shortage conditions can vary in cause, severity, duration, and timing, this WSCP is intended to provide a flexible and implementable framework for reducing demand, extending available water supplies, protecting public health and safety, and maintaining essential water service.

This WSCP is prepared in coordination with the City’s 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). The UWMP evaluates the City’s water supply reliability under normal-year, single dry-year, multiple dry-year, and five-year drought risk assessment conditions. This WSCP describes the shortage response procedures and actions the City may implement if the annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment, the City’s Water Projection Model, or another operational evaluation indicates that available supplies may be insufficient to meet expected demands.

The City’s Water Conservation Ordinance, Chapter 13.07 of the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, establishes regulations and procedures related to water conservation and water shortage response. The City may also implement shortage response actions through City Council resolution, ordinance, emergency declaration, or other appropriate legal authority depending on the nature and severity of the shortage.

**TABLE 1: RESERVOIR STORAGE**

Reservoir	Percent of Capacity
Salinas	100%
Whale Rock	86%
Nacimiento	61%

Notes: Reservoir volumes are as of May 2026.

The City’s water supply reliability is supported by a diverse portfolio of potable and non-potable supplies, including Salinas Reservoir, Whale Rock Reservoir, Nacimiento Reservoir, recycled water, and planned groundwater extraction. The City has also invested in conservation programs, water treatment facilities, conveyance and distribution infrastructure, storage, backup power, and emergency response capabilities that improve the City’s ability to manage those supplies effectively. Together, these investments reduce overreliance on any single source of supply and provide operational flexibility during droughts, infrastructure disruptions, and other water supply challenges. However, the City must retain the ability to respond to changing conditions if actual or projected supplies decline, demands exceed expected levels, or operational constraints limit the City’s ability to access, treat, or deliver water.

## SECTION 2: WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY ANALYSIS & ANNUAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### 2.1 Relationship to the UWMP & Water Supply and Demand Assessment

Water supply reliability is the City’s ability to meet customer water demands under varying hydrologic, operational, regulatory, infrastructure, and demand conditions. The City evaluates water supply reliability through several related planning documents, including the UWMP, the annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment, and this WSCP. Each document serves a different purpose, but together they support the City’s evaluation of water supply conditions and potential shortage response needs.

The UWMP provides the City's primary water supply reliability analysis. It forecasts the City's ability to meet projected water demands under normal-year, single dry-year, multiple dry-year, and five-year drought risk assessment conditions. The UWMP distinguishes between methodologies used for long-term water supply planning and shorter-term reliability analysis.

For long-term water supply planning, the UWMP evaluates whether the City's planned water supply portfolio is sufficient to meet projected demands over the UWMP planning horizon from 2025 through 2050. This analysis is informed by the policy framework established in the General Plan and Water and Wastewater Element. Long-term demand planning is based on General Plan population assumptions and the City's 117 gallons per capita per day planning value. Long-term supply planning is based on established planning values for the City's water supply portfolio, including Nacimiento Reservoir, Salinas and Whale Rock Reservoirs, recycled water use, planned groundwater when available, and long-term planning adjustments such as the 500 acre-foot reservoir siltation planning adjustment. This long-term analysis is intended to evaluate the City's ability to serve projected growth and demands through the UWMP planning horizon.

The UWMP also includes shorter-term reliability analyses required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act, including single dry-year, multiple dry-year, and five-year drought risk assessment analyses. These analyses evaluate how the City's supplies are expected to perform under dry conditions and other reliability assumptions. The five-year drought risk assessment evaluates whether supplies are expected to be sufficient if the City were to experience five consecutive dry years during the required assessment period. Unlike the long-term General Plan and Water and Wastewater Element planning methodology, the five-year drought risk assessment uses current and projected near-term conditions to evaluate supply reliability. These conditions may include current and projected reservoir storage, recent demand, source availability, infrastructure constraints, recycled water availability, groundwater project status, dry-year assumptions, and Water Projection Model results.

The annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment serves a related but more focused purpose. Prepared annually by City staff, the assessment evaluates whether available supplies are sufficient to meet anticipated demands during the upcoming fiscal year, referred to as the assessment period. The annual assessment is a near-term operational and water supply reliability analysis that supports the City's annual determination of whether a water shortage is anticipated and whether response actions under this WSCP may be needed. Like the UWMP's five-year drought risk assessment, the annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment relies on current and projected near-term conditions rather than long-term General Plan buildout assumptions.

This WSCP is an implementation and response document. It does not duplicate all of the UWMP's reliability tables or the detailed analysis included in the annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment. Instead, it incorporates the UWMP's reliability analysis by reference, including the long-term reliability findings and shorter-term drought reliability analyses, and relies on the annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment and Water Projection Model to support near-term shortage determinations. Together, these documents help determine whether the City should remain in normal operations or consider implementation of staged response actions under this WSCP.

This structure keeps each document in its proper role:

- The UWMP provides a detailed assessment of the City's long-term and short-term water supply reliability;
- The annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment evaluates water supply reliability for the upcoming fiscal year and supports the City's annual shortage determination; and
- The WSCP establishes the staged actions the City may take if shortage conditions occur in the upcoming year or future years.

### 2.2 Annual Water Supply & Demand Assessment

The annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment evaluates the City's water supply reliability for the current year and one upcoming dry year. The City may evaluate additional dry-year conditions at its discretion if doing so would assist with water supply planning, drought preparedness, or City Council decision-making.

The City's annual assessment process includes the following general steps:

1. **Review current water supply conditions.**

Staff review current reservoir storage, precipitation, hydrologic conditions, source-specific availability, water quality conditions, regulatory considerations, and other factors that may affect the City's ability to access, treat, convey, or deliver water.
2. **Estimate current-year unconstrained demand.**

Staff estimate anticipated customer demand for the assessment period before applying any new shortage response actions triggered by that year's assessment. This estimate may consider recent potable and non-potable water use, seasonal demand patterns, weather, population, expected near-term growth, land use changes, customer class trends, prior conservation levels, and other factors that may influence demand.
3. **Quantify current-year available supply.**

Staff quantify available supplies from each applicable source, including Salinas Reservoir, Whale Rock Reservoir, Nacimiento Reservoir, recycled water, and groundwater, if available. The assessment considers hydrologic and regulatory conditions for the current year and one dry year, as well as source-specific operational limitations.
4. **Evaluate infrastructure capabilities and plausible constraints.**

Staff evaluate whether existing infrastructure can access, treat, convey, store, and distribute the water supplies identified in the assessment. This may include consideration of treatment capacity, transmission and conveyance limitations, pump station availability, reservoir operations, distribution system constraints, groundwater project status, temporary outages, planned maintenance, emergency repairs, and other operational limitations. Temporary conveyance constraints may be incorporated when applicable.
5. **Apply dry-year assumptions.**

Staff evaluate available supplies under applicable dry-year assumptions. These assumptions may include reduced reservoir inflows, increased evaporation, reduced precipitation, higher seasonal demand, reduced source availability, water quality limitations, or other conditions that could affect supply reliability during a dry year.
6. **Use locally applicable evaluation criteria.**

The City will consistently rely on locally applicable evaluation criteria to determine whether shortage conditions may exist. These criteria may include projected monthly supply and demand balances, total projected annual surplus or shortage, estimated years of available water supply remaining, reservoir storage conditions, source-specific operational availability, infrastructure constraints, recycled water availability, groundwater availability, and whether projected conditions correspond to a WSCP shortage stage.
7. **Evaluate results using the Water Projection Model.**

The City uses its Water Projection Model to support the annual assessment. The model evaluates projected demand, available supplies, source-specific assumptions, infrastructure constraints, dry-year conditions, and the estimated number of years of available water supply remaining under the input conditions. The model allows the City to evaluate near-term reliability based on actual and expected conditions rather than relying solely on long-term planning assumptions.
8. **Determine whether WSCP response actions may be needed.**

If the annual assessment indicates that projected supplies are sufficient to meet projected demands and that available supplies are expected to remain above the City's established years-of-supply thresholds, no shortage response action may be required. If the assessment indicates that supplies may be insufficient, or that available supplies have declined below a WSCP stage threshold, staff may recommend that the City Council declare the applicable shortage stage and implement appropriate response actions.

9. **Report findings and submit required information to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR).**

Staff will generally present the annual assessment to the City Council in May or June of each year. Following review, the City will submit the required annual water shortage assessment information to DWR by July 1, consistent with California Water Code requirements.

The annual assessment is intended to provide a consistent decision-making process while allowing the City to account for changing hydrologic, operational, regulatory, infrastructure, and demand conditions. Because actual conditions may vary from year to year, the assessment may result in a recommendation to remain in normal operations, declare a WSCP shortage stage, modify previously adopted response actions, or take other actions necessary to protect public health, safety, and essential water service.

### 2.3 Five-Year Drought Risk Assessment

The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires that the City conduct a five-year Drought Risk Assessment as part of the UWMP. The assessment evaluates whether the City's projected water supplies would be sufficient to meet projected water demands during a period simulating five consecutive dry years. This analysis provides a shorter-term reliability outlook than the UWMP's long-term planning horizon and helps identify whether potential shortage conditions could occur during the five-year assessment period.

This assessment is particularly relevant to this WSCP because the City's shortage response framework is structured around years-of-supply thresholds. These thresholds are intended to help the City identify potential shortage conditions before supplies are exhausted and before more severe response actions become necessary. By evaluating supply reliability across a five-year dry period, the assessment helps to determine whether available supplies are sufficient to maintain normal operations or whether the City may need to consider staged response actions under this WSCP.

### 2.4 Water Supply Reliability Findings

The City's 2025 UWMP concludes that the City's diversified water supply portfolio, planned groundwater restoration, recycled water program, conservation efforts, and ongoing infrastructure investments provide a reliable basis for meeting projected water demands through the 2025-2050 UWMP planning horizon. The City's reliability analyses show that projected supplies are expected to be sufficient to meet projected demands under normal-year, single dry-year, multiple dry-year, and five-year drought risk assessment conditions.

Actual conditions may differ from the assumptions used in the UWMP or annual assessment. Potential causes of reduced supply include extended drought, infrastructure failure, wildfire, water quality impacts, regulatory changes, treatment or conveyance limitations, groundwater production delays, groundwater basin management constraints, reduced recycled water availability, or demand conditions that differ from projections. If such conditions result in a projected or actual shortage, the City may implement this WSCP.

Identifying a potential shortage multiple years in advance is a responsible water management practice. Early identification provides time for the City to implement phased demand reduction measures, increase public outreach, adjust operations, preserve reservoir storage, evaluate supplemental supplies, and avoid more abrupt or disruptive restrictions later. Early identification also allows the City Council, staff, customers, and regional partners to respond in a measured and coordinated manner before shortage conditions become more severe.

## SECTION 3: WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

The City's water shortage response stages provide a structured framework for escalating response actions as water supply conditions worsen. The stages are intended to reduce demand, extend available supplies, preserve water for public health and safety, and provide time for additional rainfall, supplemental supplies, infrastructure repairs, or operational adjustments to improve supply conditions.

The City's local shortage stages are informed by the Water Projection Model's estimate of the number of years of available water supply remaining based on defined inputs. This years-of-supply approach reflects

the City’s local water supply planning framework and allows the City to identify potential shortage conditions before supplies are insufficient to meet demand. To maintain consistency with State reporting requirements, the City maps each local stage to the State’s six standard shortage levels, which are expressed as percentage shortage ranges. When declaring a shortage stage and selecting response actions, the City Council would consider the Water Projection Model results, the applicable local shortage stage, the corresponding State shortage level, and the specific supply, demand, infrastructure, and operational conditions causing the potential shortage.

### 3.1 Relationship to State Standard Shortage Levels

California Water Code Section 10632 requires six standard water shortage levels corresponding to progressive shortage ranges of up to 10 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent, 50 percent, and greater than 50 percent. The City’s WSCP includes a Monitor Stage that represents normal conditions where greater than five years of water supply are available and the City’s ongoing conservation program is in place. The six shortage levels required by the Water Code begin with the City’s Watch Stage and progress through the Critical Stage, as shown in Table 2.

The City’s shortage stages are intended to operate cumulatively. Unless modified, suspended, or replaced by City Council action, actions implemented during a lower shortage stage would remain in effect when the City moves to a higher shortage stage. For example, actions implemented during the Watch Stage would remain in effect during the Warning Stage, and the Warning Stage would add additional measures intended to further reduce demand. As a result, the percentage shortage ranges shown in Table 2 represent cumulative shortage-response targets, while the measures described for each stage generally identify the additional actions that may be implemented as conditions worsen.

**TABLE 2: Water Shortage Response Stages Quick Reference Guide**

STAGE	WATER SUPPLY STATUS <sup>1</sup>	CITY ACTIONS
Monitor	5+ years of available water supply	City maintains existing water conservation staffing levels and budget that supports meeting internal water efficiency goals and regulatory requirements for water conservation, including ongoing public outreach.
Watch	< 5 years of available water supply (up to 10% water shortage)	City increases programs that encourage voluntary water conservation including public outreach, rebate programs, and water efficient fixture giveaways. City examines available alternative water sources (groundwater expansion, recycled water filling stations, water purchase agreements, etc.), City modifies internal operations to focus on decreasing water loss and prepares for subsequent WSCP stages. City ceases any short-term outside-City water sales/leases.
Warning	< 4.5 years of available water supply (up to 20% water shortage)	City implements time of use irrigation restrictions (7:00 PM – 7:00 AM). City increases staffing, budget, and outreach to achieve additional voluntary conservation savings while preparing for Alert-Critical stages.
Alert	< 4 years of available water supply (up to 30% water shortage)	City requires mandatory conservation measures including outdoor irrigation restrictions (four day a week watering) and considers a Water Offset Program for new connections.
Severe	< 3.5 years of available water supply	City implements Water Allotment Program. Water Offset Program for new connections may be increased (1.5:1 or 2:1 offset ratio). Allowable irrigation reduced to three days per week.

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	(up to 40% water shortage)	
<b>Extreme</b>	< 3 years of available water supply (up to 50% water shortage)	City continues to implement a Water Allotment Program with reduced allotment levels. Water Offset Program for new connections may be increased (3:1 or 4:1 offset ratio). Allowable irrigation reduced to two days per week with optional additional measures limiting turf and spray irrigation.
<b>Critical</b>	< 2.5 years of available water supply (>50% water shortage)	City continues to implement a Water Allotment Program at further reduced levels (minimum for public health and safety). Irrigation no longer permitted. Water Offset Program to cease and no new connections permitted.

**NOTE:** The City's Water Supply Status is informed by the Water Projection Model described in Section 2, Annual Water Shortage Assessment, of this WSCP.

### 3.2 City Council Declaration & Implementation

If the annual assessment, five-year drought risk assessment, or another operational evaluation indicates that available supplies may be insufficient to meet expected demands, City staff would evaluate the appropriate WSCP stage and provide recommended response actions to the City Council for consideration. The City Council would then declare the applicable water shortage stage<sup>1</sup> and authorize implementation of specific shortage response actions through resolution, ordinance, emergency declaration, or other appropriate action. Outside of potential drought conditions, the City may also implement emergency response actions through the same process if a sudden supply interruption, infrastructure failure, water quality issue, power outage, or other emergency resulted in the need for immediate action to protect public health, safety, or essential water service.

The City is not required to implement every action listed in a stage during every shortage event, nor is the list of actions in this WSCP intended to be exclusively relied upon. Response actions may be tailored to the specific circumstances of the shortage, including hydrologic conditions, reservoir storage, infrastructure constraints, treatment capacity, customer demand, time of year, and expected shortage duration.

## SECTION 4: WATER SHORTAGE STAGES AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

### 4.1 Overview

The City's water shortage response may combine demand reduction measures, public outreach, operational changes, supply augmentation, enforcement, financial measures, and administrative actions. Response actions generally increase in intensity as shortage conditions become more severe.

Outdoor irrigation restrictions are an important component of the City's response strategy because a substantial portion of seasonal demand is associated with landscape irrigation. Outdoor water uses are often discretionary, visible, and easier to monitor than many indoor uses. However, the City may also implement indoor water efficiency measures, customer-specific water budgets, water allotments, water waste enforcement, and other measures as needed.

The response actions described in this section are cumulative unless otherwise directed by the City Council. Measures implemented during earlier shortage stages are expected to remain in effect during later shortage stages, with additional or more restrictive measures added as needed to address the increasing shortage level. Accordingly, references to an "additional" reduction in later stages are intended to describe the

<sup>1</sup> When required by applicable conditions, the City Council shall declare a water shortage emergency in accordance with California Water Code Chapter 3, Section 350. The City shall coordinate with the County of San Luis Obispo and any other applicable local agency regarding the possible proclamation of a local emergency, as defined in Government Code Section 8558.

incremental savings sought from the new measures added at that stage, not the total cumulative reduction target.

### 4.2 Water Shortage Response Stage: Monitor

The City of San Luis Obispo has made water conservation an integral part of the community's values, culture, and policy context for managing its water resources. The community has demonstrated a high commitment to reducing its water usage during and outside of water shortages. Although not an actual declaration of a water shortage, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan's Monitor Stage remains in place at all times along with voluntary conservation.

This stage is focused on achieving voluntary water savings, as opposed to mandatory demand reduction programs. To ensure the City is using water responsibly and remaining in compliance with water efficiency goals and regulations, the City continually assesses available water supply levels, monitors customer water demand trends, conducts water loss audits, and evaluates potential supplemental supply projects. The following are examples of demand management measures that may be taken to maintain water use efficiency goals:

1. Implement public outreach and communication programs (bill stuffers, social media, etc.).
2. Participate in trade shows, home shows, and special community events.
3. Offer complimentary water audits.
4. Identify and notify customers of possible leaks and inefficient uses of water.
5. Encourage the use of drip irrigation and drought tolerant plants.
6. Implement school (K-12) education programs related to water conservation.
7. Enforce the water efficiency retrofit program (toilet retrofit upon sale program).

Actions at the Monitor Stage would also include active enforcement of the City's water waste prohibitions, such as those from Chapter 13.07 of the City's Municipal Code, which defines water waste as follows:

#### ***City of San Luis Obispo, Municipal Code***

##### ***13.07.20 – Water runoff prohibited.***

- A. No person shall cause any water delivered by the city water system to flow away from property owned, occupied or controlled by such person in any gutter, ditch or in any other manner over the surface of the ground, so as to constitute water waste runoff.***
- B. "Water waste runoff" is water flowing away from property and which is caused by excessive application(s) of water beyond reasonable or practical flow rates, water volumes or duration of application, or due to faulty systems that have not been repaired within seventy-two hours of written notice from the city. (Ord. 1734 § 7, 2024; Ord. 1704 § 9, 2021; Ord. 1089 § 1, 1987)***

### 4.3 Water Shortage Response Stage: Watch

When the City's available water supply would provide **less than five years** of water, staff would recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution declaring a water shortage and to enter the Watch Stage and urge the public to reduce water use by approximately ten percent.

During the Watch Stage, the demand management measures utilized during the Monitor Stage above will increase along with a continued focus on voluntary water use reduction. The City will also increase public outreach, implement system and operational changes, increase enforcement actions and patrols, and

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undertake other administrative actions. These program expansion and changes may include:

### 1. Water Demand Reduction Programs:

- A. Accelerate water audit programs for all customer classes
- B. Identify largest water users in each sector and contact for complimentary water audits
- C. Increase water waste patrols
- D. Conduct water use surveys
- E. Implement rebate programs
- F. Consider the use of irrigation limitations
- G. Host workshops on effective irrigation practices

### 2. Public Outreach Programs:

- A. Issue a press release following Watch Stage declaration
- B. Include information in quarterly Resource Newsletter
- C. Evaluate outreach effectiveness and expand outreach for non-English languages as needed
- D. Update City website and create a page dedicated to information on details of WSCP Watch Stage
- E. Use billing inserts to notify public of current situation and needs
- F. Coordinate with regional partners on messaging and outreach
- G. Increase outreach to Cuesta and Cal Poly students and at public events such as Farmers Market, SLO Home Show, homeowners association board meetings, meetings with hospitality industry, etc.
- H. Focus social media platforms on issues consistent with needed demand reductions

### 3. System and Operational Changes:

- A. Cease any short-term water sales.
- B. Reduce water usage for water main flushing and hydrant flushing
- C. Reduce distribution system pressure where feasible
- D. Increase leak detection, water meter testing, and water meter replacement
- E. Require use of non-potable water sources for all street sweeping and hydrocleaning
- F. Activate the Drought Taskforce

### 4. Enforcement Actions:

#### A. **First Violation:** Customer Notification and Education

Staff will notify the customer of the particular violation observed, and the demand reduction programs currently in place. Staff will assist the customer in determining resources necessary to comply with requirements. Examples of notification include: door tags containing educational information, mailed letter, and/or personal phone call by staff.

#### B. **Second Violation:** Issuance of Notice of Violation

Customer will be issued a written notice of violation (NOV), notifying the customer of specific violation, date and time the violation was observed, and consequences of subsequent violations.

#### C. **Subsequent Violations:** Customer may be issued a penalty/fine for violation.

### 5. Other Administrative Actions:

- A. Begin drafting ordinance revisions and code changes that would go into effect in subsequent water shortage stages.
- B. Plan for the funding and implementation of specific conservation programs launched in subsequent water shortage stages.
- C. Review potential fiscal impacts of drought (i.e., increased water supply, operational, and capital costs); and demand reductions (reduced revenue).
- D. Identify and plan for the need for additional staff. In planning for additional staff, consideration should be given to funding, available office space, vehicles, training, and other needed supplies and support.
- E. Consider need for drought surcharge to stabilize revenue.

- F. Consider deferring previously scheduled capital projects as necessary to invest in acquisition of needed water supply sources and demand reductions.
- G. Review available supplemental water supply options, such as increased use of groundwater, utilization of potable reuse, and implementation of residential recycled water filling stations for landscape irrigation.

#### 4.4 Water Shortage Response Stage: Warning

When the City's available water supply would provide **less than 4.5 years** of water, staff would recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution to enter the Warning Stage and urge the public to reduce water use by an additional 10 percent including mandatory conservation measures.

The water conservation measures described in the Monitor and Watch Stages above may increase during the Warning Stage, with an increased focus on limiting outdoor water uses. System and operational changes would remain in place. These increases and additions to programs may include:

##### 1. Water Demand Reduction Programs:

- A. Continue implementation of and possible increase of all demand reduction programs listed in Watch Stage.
- B. Limit outdoor watering to between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM.
- C. Require restaurants to only serve water upon request.
- D. Restrict use of decorative<sup>2</sup> water features and fountains.

##### 2. Public Outreach Programs:

- A. Continue implementation of and possible increase of all public outreach programs listed in Watch Stage.
- B. Issue a press release following Warning Stage declaration.
- C. Target outreach to customers with large landscapes regarding irrigation restrictions.
- D. Use of billing inserts, social media, postcards, and direct mail pieces to inform customers of new requirements and prohibitions.
- E. Coordinate with local business groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and landscaping associations to help encourage conservation among commercial customers.
- F. Coordinate with homeowners associations, property rental agencies, and other local groups to help encourage conservation among residential customers.

##### 3. Enforcement Actions (Same as previous stage)

##### 4. Other Administrative Actions:

- A. Continue implementation of and possible increase of all other administrative actions listed in Watch Stage.
- B. Begin preparing for the Alert Stage.

##### 5. Optional Implementation of a Water Demand Offset Program:

During the Warning Stage, staff will begin updating the Water Demand Offset Program and messaging about the program to the development community and general public. The City may consider implementing a water demand offset program during this stage. Water demand offset programs are designed to require new development that causes increased water demand to offset such demand through conservation or acquisition/development of new water supplies. The goal of an offset program is to ensure that new development does not increase current water demands. It should be noted that

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<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this WSCP, decorative or recreational water features include artificially supplied ponds, lakes, waterfalls, fountains, and similar features. These features are distinct from swimming pools and spas, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 115921. The City may restrict or prohibit the use of potable water for decorative water features during shortage stages, while separately evaluating restrictions applicable to swimming pools and spas based on public health, safety, evaporation, leakage, and other relevant considerations.

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offset programs simply expedite water efficiency measures and thus create water savings in the short term. Depending on the nature of the offset, long-term savings may not be realized.

At the Warning Stage the City may choose to implement a “net neutral” offset program, requiring that new demands offset usage at a rate of 1:1. Future stages of the WSCP may suggest a more aggressive, “net positive” water demand offset program. A “net positive” water demand offset program would require a positive offset of a project’s water demand. An example of this would be a project required to offset its water demand at a ratio higher than 1:1, such as 2:1 or 3:1.

There are several types of offset programs in use across California and the United States. Examples of potential offset programs are listed below.

- A. Toilet replacements
- B. Smart irrigation controllers
- C. Submetering
- D. In-lieu fees (fees are used to support new water supply projects)
- E. Irrigation system retrofits
- F. Waterless urinals
- G. Rainwater capture
- H. Recycled Water Retrofit Projects

### 4.5 Water Shortage Response Stage: Alert

When the City’s available water supply would provide less than four years of water, staff would recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution to enter the Alert Stage and urge the public to reduce water use by an additional 10 percent including mandatory conservation measures.

The water conservation measures described in the stages above may increase during the Alert Stage, with an increased focus on limiting outdoor water uses. System and operational changes would remain in place. These increases and additions to programs may include:

#### 1. Water Demand Reduction Programs:

- A. Limit outdoor watering to **four days a week** and only between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM.
- B. Defer landscape installations for new development or require development to install landscaping that provides a 50 percent reduction in Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA). This would not apply to sites irrigated with recycled water.

#### 2. Public Outreach Programs:

- A. Continue implementation of and possible increase of all public outreach programs listed in previous stages.
- B. Issue a press release following Alert Stage declaration
- C. Utilize water use allocation software to identify inefficient water users and make direct contact with these properties.

#### 3. Enforcement Actions (Same as previous stage)

#### 4. Other Administrative Actions:

- A. Continue to implement and possibly increase all other administrative actions listed in prior stages.
- B. Prepare utility billing system and bill format for water allocations and reductions listed in subsequent stages.
- C. Establish appeals committee for customers who exceed allotments in subsequent stages, request health and safety variances, or receive fines from violating water waste prohibitions.
- D. Increase utility billing training and support to address additional requirements of future stages.
- E. Begin preparing for Severe Stage.

#### 5. Implementation of a Water Demand Offset Program:

At the Alert Stage the City may implement a “net neutral” offset program or increase a previously approved program to a “net positive” program (ex: 1.5:1 or 2:1 offset ratio). Future stages of the WSCP may suggest a more aggressive, “net positive” water demand offset program.

#### 4.6 Water Shortage Response Stage: Severe

When the City’s available water supply would provide **less than 3.5 years** of water, staff would recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution to enter the Severe Stage and urge the public to reduce water use by an additional 10 percent.

At this water shortage response stage, the City would continue implementation of demand reduction measures previously adopted by City Council, public outreach, enforcement, and other responses and programs described in prior stages. System and operational changes would remain in place. At the Severe Stage, a water offset program may increase to a “net positive” program, such as 1.5:1 or 2:1 ratio.

Previous Water Demand Reduction Programs should be increased to include:

- Limit outdoor watering to **three days a week** and only between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM.

During the Severe, Extreme, and Critical stages of the WSCP the City Council may adopt a Water Allotment Program, restricting the water use on an account-by-account basis. The following allotment method may be used:

Customer Classification	Severe Stage Allotment
Single-family Residential and Multi-family Residential	A per capita allotment allowing for indoor use and a minimal outdoor irrigation budget. Verification of persons per household may be requested
Commercial and Institutional	Baseline allocation or allocation based on percent reduction from normal usage
Landscape Meters	Allocation based on percent reduction from normal usage

#### 4.7 Water Shortage Response Stage: Extreme

When the City’s available water supply would provide **less than three years** of water, staff would recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution to enter the Extreme Stage and urge the public to reduce water use by an additional 10 percent.

At this water shortage response stage, the City would continue implementation of demand reduction measures previously adopted by City Council, public outreach, enforcement, and other responses and programs described in prior stages. System and operational changes would remain in place. At the Extreme Stage, a water offset program may increase to a higher proportional “net positive” program, such as 3:1 or 4:1 ratio.

Previous Water Demand Reduction Programs should be increased to include:

- Limit outdoor watering to **two days a week** and only between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM.
- Optional implementation of additional restrictions on turf and/or spray irrigation.

Customer Classification	Extreme Stage Allotment
Single-family Residential and Multi-family Residential	A per capita allotment allowing for indoor use and a reduced outdoor irrigation budget versus the Severe Stage. Verification of persons per household may be requested

## 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Commercial and Institutional	Reduced baseline allocation or allocation based on percent reduction from normal usage
Landscape Meters	Reduced allocation based on percent reduction from normal usage

At this stage, due to the limited water supplies that remain, the City could consider removal of the “courtesy notification.”

### 4.8 Water Shortage Response Stage: Critical

When the City’s available water supply would provide **less than 2.5 years of water**, staff would recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution to enter the Critical Stage and urge the public to reduce water use by an additional approximately 10 percent.

At this water shortage response stage, the City would continue implementation of demand reduction measures adopted by City Council, public outreach, enforcement, and other responses and programs described in prior stages. System and operational changes would remain in place. Due to the limited water supplies that remain, the City Council would consider the cessation of new connections to the City’s water system while the Critical State is in effect.

Previous Water Demand Reduction Programs should be increased to include:

- Cessation of irrigation for all customers, minus specific exemptions.

Customer Classification	Critical Stage Allotment
Single-family Residential and Multi-family Residential	A per capita allotment allowing for indoor water use. Irrigation not permitted. Verification of persons per household may be requested
Commercial and Institutional	Reduced baseline allocation or allocation based on percent reduction from normal usage. Irrigation not permitted.
Landscape Meters	Not permitted.

## SECTION 5: COMMUNICATION, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT

### 5.1 Communication Protocols

The City will communicate water shortage conditions and response actions to customers, the public, interested parties, and local, regional, and state agencies. Communication efforts will be scaled to the severity of the shortage and may include but not be limited to:

- City Council meetings and staff reports;
- Press releases and media briefings;
- City website updates;
- Utility bill inserts or bill messages;
- Direct mailers and postcards;
- Physical postings in community facilities and areas;
- Email notifications;
- Social media;
- Newsletters;
- Community workshops;
- Targeted outreach to organizations and support networks for disadvantaged communities;
- Targeted outreach to high-use customers;
- Outreach to homeowners associations, property managers, business groups, school districts, institutional customers, and landscape professionals;
- Coordination with regional agencies and partner organizations;

- O. Multilingual outreach materials as needed; and
- P. Emergency notifications if conditions require immediate public action.

Communications will identify the current or anticipated shortage condition, the applicable WSCP stage, required or requested customer actions, implementation dates, enforcement procedures, available assistance, and where customers can obtain additional information.

### 5.2 Customer Compliance & Enforcement

The City may enforce water shortage response actions through the Municipal Code, City Council resolutions, ordinances, administrative procedures, or other applicable legal authorities. Enforcement may increase in intensity as shortage conditions become more severe or as repeated violations occur. Where feasible, the City will prioritize education and communication with residents to encourage compliance before relying on penalties or fines.

Potential enforcement actions include:

- A. Courtesy notices;
- B. Written warnings;
- C. Notices of violation;
- D. Administrative citations or penalties;
- E. Installation of flow restrictors, where legally authorized and appropriate;
- F. Termination of service for severe or repeated violations, where legally authorized and necessary;
- G. Referral for additional enforcement; and
- H. Other remedies authorized by law.

The City may use monthly meter reads, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) data when available, customer reports, staff observations, water waste patrols, and billing system data to monitor compliance with shortage response actions.

### 5.3 Legal Authorities

The City's legal authorities for implementing and enforcing this WSCP may include, but are not limited to:

- A. California Water Code Sections 350 et seq. related to water shortage emergencies;
- B. California Water Code Section 10632 and related UWMP Act provisions;
- C. California Water Code Section 10632.1 related to annual water supply and demand assessments;
- D. California Water Code Chapter 3.3 related to excessive residential water use during drought;
- E. San Luis Obispo Municipal Code Chapter 13.07, Water Conservation;
- F. City Council resolutions declaring shortage stages or authorizing response actions;
- G. City Council ordinances establishing mandatory restrictions, penalties, rates, surcharges, or other measures;
- H. Water service rules, regulations, and customer service requirements;
- I. Emergency powers available under local or state law; and
- J. Contractual authorities, where applicable.

When required by applicable conditions, the City Council shall declare a water shortage emergency in accordance with California Water Code Chapter 3, Section 350. The City shall coordinate with the County of San Luis Obispo and any other applicable local agency regarding the possible proclamation of a local emergency, as defined in Government Code Section 8558.

## SECTION 6: WATER BUDGETS, EXEMPTIONS, AND APPEALS

### 6.1 Water Budgets & Allotments

During advanced shortage stages, the City may implement water budgets or water allotments to reduce demand and allocate available supplies in a manner that protects public health, safety, sanitation, fire protection, and other essential uses. Water budgets and allotments may be implemented by customer class,

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individual account, property type, historical use, irrigated area, or another method approved by the City Council.

Water budgets or allotments may be based on one or more of the following:

- A. Customer class;
- B. Historical water use;
- C. Household size;
- D. Irrigated landscape area;
- E. Aerial imagery or parcel data;
- F. Business or institutional function;
- G. Health and safety needs;
- H. Fire protection requirements;
- I. Functional landscape needs;
- J. Recycled water availability;
- K. Seasonal demand patterns; and
- L. Other relevant and legally supportable criteria.

The City may use aerial imagery, parcel data, customer account information, water meter data, AMI data when available, or other available information to establish water budgets or allotments. Water budgets may be adjusted by the City, as needed, to reflect updated information, customer appeals, approved exemptions, corrected account information, or changing shortage conditions.

### 6.2 Exemptions & Adjustments

The City may allow limited exemptions or adjustments from specific water shortage response actions when necessary to protect public health, safety, sanitation, fire protection, essential community functions, or long-term community resources. Exemptions and adjustments are intended to address unique circumstances and do not exempt any customer from the City's general water waste prohibitions, including prohibitions on water waste caused by substandard, leaky or faulty fixtures or devices, irrigation runoff, or other avoidable waste of water.

Requests for exemptions from water use restrictions shall be processed in accordance with San Luis Obispo Municipal Code Section 13.07.100 and any applicable rules and procedures adopted by City Council resolution. Section 13.07.100 establishes the Water Conservation Adjustment Board and authorizes the Board to grant exceptions for uses of water otherwise prohibited by Section 13.07.070. The Board consists of the directors of the City's Finance, Utilities,<sup>3</sup> and Community Development Departments, or their designees.

Exemptions may be limited in duration, conditioned on corrective actions, or subject to monitoring and reporting requirements. The City may revoke or modify an exemption if conditions change, if the basis for the exemption no longer applies, or if the customer fails to comply with applicable conditions.

Potential exemption or adjustment categories may include:

#### **Recycled Water Use:**

Sites using recycled water for irrigation or other approved non-potable uses may be exempt from potable water irrigation restrictions because these uses do not rely on the City's potable water supply. Recycled water use remains subject to applicable recycled water regulations, permits, site requirements, and operational limitations. Recycled water exemptions do not authorize wasteful use, runoff, or use inconsistent with recycled water rules or permit conditions.

#### **Public Parks, Schools, and Community Recreation Areas:**

The City may allow limited irrigation adjustments for public parks, schools, athletic fields, and other community recreation areas when necessary to protect public health and safety, preserve functional recreational areas, or avoid hazardous conditions. These adjustments may be limited to specific facilities,

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<sup>3</sup> Recognized as the Director of the Public Works and Utilities Department.

irrigation schedules, turf renovation periods, or other conditions established by the City. Such adjustments would apply only to the specific shortage measures identified by the City and would not exempt the facility from water waste prohibitions or leak repair requirements.

### **Tree Preservation:**

The City may allow limited irrigation necessary to preserve established trees, recognizing that trees provide long-term environmental, community, shade, habitat, stormwater, and economic benefits. Tree irrigation adjustments may be limited to hand watering, drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or other efficient methods approved by the City. This exemption is intended to preserve trees and does not authorize turf irrigation, runoff, overspray, or other wasteful water use.

### **Health, Safety, and Essential Uses:**

Hospitals, healthcare facilities, care facilities, schools, food service establishments, critical businesses, and other customers with water needs related to public health, safety, sanitation, or essential operations may request an exemption or adjustment on a case-by-case basis. The Public Works and Utilities Director or designee may approve an exemption when the customer demonstrates that strict application of a shortage requirement would create a health, safety, sanitation, or essential service concern.

### **Other Case-by-Case Adjustments:**

The City may consider other case-by-case exemptions or adjustments based on unique circumstances, including medical needs, fire protection needs, establishment of newly installed drought-tolerant landscaping if allowed by the applicable shortage stage, documented billing or classification errors, or other circumstances determined by the Public Works and Utilities Director or designee to be consistent with the purpose of the WSCP.

## **6.3 Appeals**

Appeals related to exemption requests, water use restrictions, water budgets, allotments, penalties, or enforcement actions shall be processed in accordance with San Luis Obispo Municipal Code Section 13.07.100 and any applicable City Council-adopted rules or procedures.

Section 13.07.100 establishes the Water Conservation Adjustment Board for the purpose of appealing water conservation-related regulations and associated fines and penalties. The Board consists of the directors of the City's Finance, Utilities,<sup>4</sup> and Community Development Departments, or their designees.

Appeal procedures will be communicated to customers when water budgets, allotments, penalties, or other appealable requirements are implemented. Appeals may consider the customer's circumstances, water use history, customer classification, health and safety needs, documented leaks or repairs, and consistency with the City's adopted shortage response actions.

Filing an appeal does not relieve a customer from the obligation to comply with applicable water waste prohibitions, repair leaks, prevent runoff, or comply with emergency restrictions necessary to protect public health, safety, sanitation, or fire protection, unless otherwise authorized by the City.

## **SECTION 7: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IMPACTS**

Implementation of the WSCP may affect City revenues and expenditures. Water conservation and demand reduction may reduce water sales revenue, while shortage response actions may increase costs related to staffing, public outreach, enforcement, customer service, billing system changes, emergency repairs, supplemental supply development, and operational adjustments.

The City may evaluate revenue and expenditure impacts during each shortage stage and may recommend financial response measures to the City Council as needed. Potential financial measures may include use of reserves, budget adjustments, deferral or reprioritization of capital projects, temporary drought rates or surcharges, increased penalties for water waste or violations, grants, loans, emergency funding, cost

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<sup>4</sup> Recognized as the Director of the Public Works and Utilities Department.

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recovery for emergency response actions, adjustments to conservation program funding, or other financial tools authorized by law.

During the 2012–2015 drought, the City utilized a drought surcharge to help address revenue shortfalls related to mandatory conservation measures. Any future drought surcharge, rate adjustment, or other financial measure would be evaluated based on actual shortage conditions, projected revenue impacts, implementation costs, legal requirements such as Proposition 218, and City Council direction.

During a declared water shortage, the City will monitor monthly water consumption, revenue, expenditures, enforcement activity, outreach needs, and program implementation costs. Staff may recommend program refinements or financial actions to the City Council as conditions evolve.

As required by California Water Code Section 10632(a)(8)(C), the City has considered the potential cost of compliance with Chapter 3.3 of Division 1, commencing with Section 365, related to excessive residential water use during drought. Potential compliance-related costs that the City may incur include billing system programming, printing and delivery of customer notices, tracking and reporting excessive use, appeal processing, enforcement documentation, staff time, legal review, and customer service support. The amount of these costs would depend on the shortage stage, the requirements triggered, the number of affected accounts, and the enforcement approach approved by the City Council.

### **SECTION 8: MONITORING, REPORTING, AND REFINEMENT PROCEDURES**

The City reads water meters monthly to collect water consumption data for billing, tracking, analysis, and state reporting. Collection of monthly water use data allows the City to evaluate demand trends, identify potential changes in customer behavior, monitor compliance, and determine whether projected demands remain consistent with actual use.

Monitoring and reporting are fundamental to water shortage planning and implementation. During shortage conditions, the City may monitor reservoir storage, source availability, precipitation and hydrologic conditions, water treatment and conveyance conditions, recycled water availability, groundwater project status and production, customer demand by class, total potable and non-potable water use, water loss, compliance with restrictions, enforcement activity, public outreach effectiveness, revenue and expenditure impacts, and Water Projection Model results.

The City may update the Water Projection Model as conditions change and may reevaluate whether the current WSCP stage remains appropriate. Staff may recommend that the City Council maintain, intensify, reduce, or terminate shortage response actions based on updated supply conditions, customer demand, compliance levels, weather, infrastructure status, or other relevant factors.

Each year, in compliance with California State regulations, the City will compile a Water Supply and Demand Assessment to determine if supplies are sufficient to meet demands in the upcoming year. Staff will provide this information to the City Council each year, generally in May or June, allowing for the information to be submitted to DWR by July 1, as required by the California Water Code.

### **SECTION 9: CATASTROPHIC WATER SUPPLY INTERRUPTION**

Catastrophic water supply interruptions may occur with little or no warning and may require immediate action to protect public health, safety, sanitation, and fire protection. Potential causes include earthquake, wildfire, flooding, major pipeline failure, water quality contamination, regional power outage, treatment plant failure, cyberattack, dam or reservoir emergency, or other events that may affect the City's ability to access, treat, convey, or distribute water.

The shortage levels established in this WSCP apply to catastrophic interruptions of water supplies, including regional power outages, earthquakes, and other emergency events. Because emergency conditions can

differ significantly from drought-related shortages, the City may implement targeted emergency actions, operational changes, public notifications, or temporary restrictions that differ from the drought response measures listed in this WSCP, while using the shortage levels as an organizing framework when appropriate.

### 9.1 Seismic Risk and Hazard Mitigation Planning

The City participates in regional hazard mitigation planning through the San Luis Obispo County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). The MJHMP evaluates hazards, vulnerabilities, and mitigation strategies associated with natural and human-caused disasters, including seismic risk. The City incorporates the MJHMP by reference in the UWMP to support compliance with California Water Code Section 10632.5.

The City's water system benefits from multiple water supply sources, interconnected transmission lines, emergency storage, backup power capabilities, mutual aid coordination, and emergency response procedures. These measures support the City's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from seismic events and other emergencies that could affect water service.

### 9.2 Emergency Response and Mutual Aid

The City maintains emergency response procedures and coordinates with local, regional, and state partners during emergency conditions. The City may use emergency response plans, emergency operations procedures, mutual aid agreements, and coordination with public safety agencies to respond to catastrophic interruptions.

The City is a member of the Water Agency Response Network (WARN), a statewide mutual aid network that supports water and wastewater agencies during emergencies. The City may also coordinate with regional partners, including agencies associated with Whale Rock Reservoir, Nacimiento Reservoir, the County of San Luis Obispo, neighboring cities, and other water agencies.

The City may use onsite and portable generators to support water treatment, pumping, storage, and distribution functions during power outages. The City may also implement operational changes, emergency repairs, temporary demand restrictions, interconnections, emergency procurement, public notifications, bottled water distribution, or other emergency actions as needed.

As part of the City's planned groundwater extraction project, the City has considered emergency response functionality in the siting and design of the two new groundwater wells. In addition to serving as future supplemental potable water supply sources, the wells are located in an area that provides relatively convenient vehicle access and is proximate to existing City facilities.

During a catastrophic event or severe emergency, such as a major earthquake, wildfire, extended power outage, large transmission main failure, or other event that interrupts water service or otherwise limits the City's ability to convey or distribute water through the normal system, the groundwater well sites could provide an accessible location for emergency water distribution. Depending on the nature of the emergency, regulatory requirements, treatment system status, water quality conditions, staffing, traffic control, and public safety considerations, the City may use these sites to support filling of emergency water containers, water tenders, or other approved distribution methods.

The ability to use the groundwater well sites as emergency filling stations would provide an additional layer of resiliency by creating a potential local water access point outside of the normal distribution system. This capability would not replace the City's broader emergency response procedures, mutual aid coordination, backup power planning, or water distribution system restoration efforts, but it would provide another tool to support emergency water access during catastrophic supply interruptions.

### 9.3 Emergency Response Actions

Potential actions during a catastrophic water supply interruption may include:

- A. Activate emergency operations procedures;

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- B. Notify City leadership, emergency management, and affected agencies;
- C. Evaluate system damage and operational status;
- D. Prioritize water for public health, safety, sanitation, and fire protection;
- E. Issue public notifications, advisories, or emergency instructions;
- F. Implement temporary water use restrictions;
- G. Isolate damaged facilities or pipelines;
- H. Deploy backup power or portable generators;
- I. Coordinate emergency repairs;
- J. Request mutual aid through WARN or other agreements;
- K. Coordinate with public health and regulatory agencies;
- L. Provide temporary water supplies where feasible;
- M. Use available alternative sources, if operationally and legally feasible;
- N. Monitor water quality and system pressure;
- O. Update the City Council and public; and
- P. Transition to appropriate WSCP stages if the interruption results in an ongoing shortage.

### **SECTION 10: ADOPTION, SUBMITTAL, AND AVAILABILITY**

This WSCP is prepared and adopted in coordination with the City's 2025 UWMP and is included as an appendix to the UWMP. The WSCP may be amended separately from the UWMP if necessary to address changing conditions, regulatory requirements, operational needs, emergency response procedures, or City policy direction, provided that applicable notice, public hearing, adoption, and submittal requirements are satisfied.

Following adoption, and no later than July 1, 2026, the City will submit the adopted WSCP, together with the 2025 UWMP as applicable, to DWR, the California State Library, and applicable cities and counties within which the City provides water supplies. In any event, the City will complete required post-adoption submittals and make the adopted WSCP available to customers, the public, and applicable cities and counties no later than 30 days after adoption. The adopted WSCP will be made available through the City's website, and copies will be available at the City's Utilities Administration Office at 879 Morro Street in San Luis Obispo.

If the City amends the WSCP in the future, the City will follow applicable public review, hearing, adoption, and submittal requirements.

**APPENDIX I: STANDARDIZED TABLES**

<b>Submittal Table 8-1: Cross-reference for Standard vs Supplier Shortage Levels Water Code Section 10632(a)(3)(B)</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check the box if the Supplier uses the Standard six levels of water shortage. Proceed to the next table.		
Standard Shortage Levels	Percent Shortage Range	Suppliers Shortage Levels	Percent Shortage Range
1	Up to 10%	Watch Stage	Up to 10%
2	Up to 20%	Warning Stage	Up to 20%
3	Up to 30%	Alert Stage	Up to 30%
4	Up to 40%	Severe Stage	Up to 40%
5	Up to 50%	Extreme Stage	Up to 50%
6	>50%	Critical Stage	>50%
<b>NOTES: N/A</b>			

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<b>Submittal Table 8-2 Retail: Supply Augmentation and Other Actions</b> <b>Water Code Section 10632(a)(4)(A),(C) and (E)</b>				
Yes	Is the Supplier completing this table using the standard six levels? (yes/no)			
Shortage Level	Supply Augmentation Methods and Other Actions by Water Supplier <b>Drop down list</b> These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUEdata online submittal tool	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?		Additional Explanation or Reference (OPTIONAL)
		Volume or Percentage Drop down	Shortage Gap Reduction Value (May be a range) (AF)	
Add additional rows as needed				
1 - Watch		Percentage	0%	
2 - Warning		Percentage	0%	
3 - Alert		Percentage	0%	
4 - Severe		Percentage	0%	
5 - Extreme		Percentage	0%	
6 - Critical		Percentage	0%	
<b>DWR NOTES: Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent throughout the UWMP as reported in Submittal Table 2-3.</b>				
NOTES: The City of San Luis Obispo does not have any identified supply augmentation projects that have an implementation dependent upon Water Shortage Contingency Plan Stage.				

Submittal Table 8-3 Retail: Demand Reduction Actions Water Code Section 10632(a)(4)(B) and (E)					
Yes	Is the Supplier completing this table using the standard six levels? (yes/no)				
Shortage Level	Demand Reduction Actions <b>Drop down list</b> These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUE data online submittal tool. Select those that apply.	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?		Additional Explanation or Reference (OPTIONAL)	Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement? <b>For Retail Suppliers Only</b> Drop Down List
		Volume or Percentage Drop down	Shortage Gap Reduction Value (May be a range) (AF)		
Add additional rows as needed					
1	Expand Public Information Campaign	Percentage	5.00%		No
1	Offer Water Use Surveys	Percentage	1.00%		No
1	Provide Rebates on Plumbing Fixtures and Devices	Percentage	0.50%		No
1	Increase Water Waste Patrols	Percentage	1.00%		Yes
1	Provide Rebates for Landscape Irrigation Efficiency	Percentage	0.50%		No
1	Decrease Line Flushing	Percentage	1.00%		No
1	Reduce System Water Loss	Percentage	1.00%		No
2	Expand Public Information Campaign	Percentage	5.00%		No
2	Increase Water Waste Patrols	Percentage	3.00%		Yes
2	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific times	Percentage	1.50%		Yes
2	CII - Restaurants may only serve water upon request	Percentage	0.25%		Yes
2	Water Features - Restrict water use for decorative water features, such as fountains	Percentage	0.25%		Yes
3	Moratorium or Net Zero Demand Increase on New Connections	Percentage	0.25%	Initiate new connection offset program	Yes
3	Expand Public Information Campaign	Percentage	5.75%		No
3	Increase Water Waste Patrols	Percentage	3.00%		Yes
3	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific days	Percentage	1.00%	4 Days Per Week	Yes
4	Other	Percentage	8.75%	Initiate Water Allotment Program	Yes

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4	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific days	Percentage	1.00%	Three Days Per Week	Yes
4	Moratorium or Net Zero Demand Increase on New Connections	Percentage	0.25%	Intensify ratio of new connection offset program	Yes
5	Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific days	Percentage	1.00%	Two Days Per Week	Yes
5	Other	Percentage	9.00%	Increase Water Allotment Program Severity	Yes
6	Landscape - Prohibit all landscape irrigation	Percentage	5.00%		Yes
6	Other	Percentage	5.00%	Increase Water Allotment Program Severity	Yes
6	Moratorium or Net Zero Demand Increase on New Connections	Percentage	0%	Cessation of New Connections	Yes

**DWR NOTES: Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent throughout the UWMP as reported in Submittal Table 2-3.**

**NOTES:**

1. During Stage 6, Cessation of New Connections is represented as resulting in a 0% decrease in water demand, as this cessation will not reduce current water use, rather it aims to reduce future water demand attributed to new development.
2. Demand reduction actions are intended to be cumulative. Actions implemented at a lower shortage level are assumed to remain in effect at higher shortage levels unless modified, suspended, or replaced by City Council action.

## APPENDIX II: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Public hearing notices for the City's 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan will be included in this appendix once they have been published.

At the time of the preparation of the Draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan, all public hearing notices had not yet been published. The City will publish notice of the public hearing in accordance with applicable requirements prior to adoption of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Following publication, copies of the public hearing notices, including the date of publication and noticing information, will be added to this appendix.

DRAFT



**SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CITY COUNCIL  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The San Luis Obispo City Council invites all interested persons to attend a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo. Meetings may be viewed remotely by joining the Zoom webinar via the details published on the cover of the agenda, on Government Access Channel 20, or streamed live from the City's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/CityofSanLuisObispo](http://www.youtube.com/CityofSanLuisObispo). Public comment, prior to the start of the meeting, may be submitted in writing via U.S. Mail delivered to the City Clerk's office at 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 or by email to [emailcouncil@slocity.org](mailto:emailcouncil@slocity.org).

**PUBLIC HEARING ITEM:**

- The City Council will hold a public hearing to receive public comments and consider adoption of the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), in addition to the 2026 Water Demand and Supply Assessment. Pursuant to the California Urban Water Management Planning Act (State Water Code §10610), the UWMP evaluates the City's water supplies, demands, and conservation efforts over a 20- to 25-year planning horizon to ensure long-term water reliability. The WSCP details the agency's drought response stages and action plan for managing potential water shortages. State Water Code §10632.1 directs urban water suppliers to conduct an Annual Water Supply and Demand for the purpose of evaluating its water supply reliability for the current year and one subsequent dry year and generating and submitting an Annual Shortage Report by July 1 every year.

The draft Plans are available by June 1 for public review and inspection during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the City of San Luis Obispo Public Works and Utilities Department, Utilities Branch, 879 Morro Street, San Luis Obispo, California. The draft documents will also be available by June 1 online at <https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/utilities-department/documents-and-files>

*For more information, contact Mychal Boerman, Deputy Director – Water of the City's Utilities Department at (805) 781-7237 or by email, [mboerman@slocity.org](mailto:mboerman@slocity.org)*

The City Council may also discuss other hearings or business items before or after the items listed above. If you challenge the proposed project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Council Agenda Reports for this meeting will be available for review one week in advance of the meeting date on the City's website, under the Public Meeting Agendas web page: <https://www.slocity.org/government/mayor-and-city-council/agendas-and-minutes>. Please call the City Clerk's Office at (805) 781-7114 for more information. The City Council meeting will be televised live on Charter Cable Channel 20 and live streaming on the City's YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/CityofSanLuisObispo](http://www.youtube.com/CityofSanLuisObispo).

Teresa Purrington  
City Clerk  
May 28, 2026

**APPENDIX III: ADOPTION RESOLUTION**

A copy of the signed WSCP adoption resolution will be provided after the June 16, 2026 City Council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (2026 SERIES)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE 2025 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 797 during the 1983-1984 Regular Session, and as amended subsequently, which mandates that every supplier providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually, prepare an Urban Water Management Plan and separate Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is an urban water supplier providing more than 3,000 acre-feet water annually to approximately 17,000 customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan includes planned response actions during six water shortage levels to manage and mitigate potential water supply shortages; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan includes the written process the City will use each year to determine its water supply reliability; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan must be adopted, after public review and hearing, and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has therefore prepared for public review a draft 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and a properly noticed public hearing regarding the Plan was held by the City Council on June 16, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Adoption of the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan for the City of San Luis Obispo, consisting of text, tables, and appendices presented to the City Council on June 16, 2026, on file at the City Clerk's Office, is hereby adopted.

**SECTION 2.** The Public Works and Utilities Director or Assistant Utilities Director are hereby directed to distribute the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan to the California Department of Water Resources, the California State Library, and the County of San Luis Obispo, and make available for public review as prescribed by state law.

**SECTION 3.** California Environmental Quality Act. The adoption of the City's 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan is hereby determined to be statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 10652 of the Water Code.

Upon motion of Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:

**2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan**

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The foregoing resolution was adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Erica A. Stewart

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Purrington  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Christine Dietrick  
City Attorney

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, on \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Purrington  
City Clerk