

# Planning Documents Related to the Los Osos Water Supply

Los Osos Community Advisory Council  
June 25, 2020



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1

## Los Osos Water Supply

- Groundwater basin is sole water source, affected by:
  - Nitrate contamination
  - Seawater intrusion
  - Climate change
- Basin Plan identifies programs for a sustainable water supply.
- Annual monitoring reports track progress.
- Implemented by the Basin Management Committee:
  - Los Osos CSD
  - Golden State Water Company
  - S&T Mutual Water Company
  - County



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2

## Basin Plan Programs

To accommodate existing demand with marginal growth:

- o Groundwater monitoring
- o Urban water use efficiency
- o Treated wastewater to leach fields and golf course
- o Shifting groundwater pumping
- o Wellhead protection

To accommodate buildout demand:

- o Community nitrate removal facility
- o Shifting groundwater pumping
- o Supplying treated wastewater for agricultural use

Programs may be modified with adaptive management.



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3

## Basin Metrics

**Basin Yield.** Is pumping volume sustainable?

Goal: production is 80% or less than estimated sustainable yield

2019 value: 69%

**Chloride\* & Water Level\*.** Is seawater intruding?

Goal: 100 mg/L or less & 8 feet above mean sea level or higher

2019 values: 162 mg/L & 1.8 feet above mean sea level

**Nitrate\*.** Is nitrate contamination within drinking water limits?

Goal: 10 mg/L or lower

2019 value: 22 mg/L

\*Measured at key wells. 5 wells for water level and nitrate. 4 wells for chloride.



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4

## Planning Documents

Water supply-related planning documents for Los Osos:

- **Resource Summary Report**
  - Assigns “Level of Severity” to water supply.
- **Los Osos Community Plan**
  - Establishes buildout water demand.
  - Restricts non-residential development until Basin Plan programs for existing demand and marginal growth are complete.
- **Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) (Title 26)**
  - Establishes growth rate for new dwelling units based on available water supply.



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5

## Resource Summary Report

- Revising 2016-2018 report with updated Los Osos information
- Assigns Level of Severity (“LOS”) to a water supply based on the timeframe for the remaining estimated dependable water supply for forecasted demand. For coastal areas:
  - LOS I – 9 years remaining supply
  - LOS II – 7 years remaining supply
  - LOS III – existing demand already equals or exceeds supply
- **LOS III** for the Los Osos Basin Plan Area water supply because:
  - Basin Plan programs for existing demand and marginal growth are not complete.
  - Annual monitoring is verifying program effectiveness.
- Level of Severity may be revised down as programs are completed and depending on basin monitoring results.



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6

## Community Plan & GMO

Now (June 2020)

Wastewater treatment plant cannot serve undeveloped parcels

Waitlist of 215 single family units and 130 multi-family units to apply for building permits inside the sewer service area

Average of 2 new dwellings per year outside the sewer service area



**Los Osos Community Plan and Habitat-Conservation Plan Adopted  
Growth Management Ordinance Amendment Adopted**

Wastewater treatment plant may serve undeveloped parcels

No new development except exempt dwellings\*

\* Exempt dwellings include ADUs, affordable housing, agricultural worker dwellings, and replacement dwellings.



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7

## Community Plan & GMO



**Basin Plan Programs M+E+U+AC+P Implemented**

1.3% growth rate for 5 years for new dwelling units\*  
No restriction on non-residential growth

82-86 new dwelling units per year, 11 outside and 71-75 within the sewer service area  
estimated 12-13 AFY annual increase in water demand

421 new dwelling units and 63 AFY estimated increase in water demand by year 5



**New Basin Plan Programs Implemented  
Basin Management Committee Criteria for New Development Updated**

Re-evaluate growth rate

\* Exempt dwellings include ADUs, affordable housing, agricultural worker dwellings, and replacement dwellings.



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8

## Timeline

- **July 9, 2020 – Planning Commission**
    - GMO growth rate and Los Osos Community Plan
  - **August 11, 2020 – Board of Supervisors (Consent, Not Hearing)**
    - Submittal of revised 2016-2018 RSR and introduction of GMO
  - **August 18, 2020 (tentative) – Board of Supervisors**
    - GMO growth rate and Los Osos Community Plan
  - **Coastal Commission - TBD**
- 
- Email written comments to [khensley@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:khensley@co.slo.ca.us)
  - Virtual hearings until further notice. Comments may be submitted via voicemail beforehand or via zoom or phone during hearing.



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9

## Questions?



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10