

LOS OSOS GROUNDWATER BASIN, BASIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Los Osos Groundwater Basin, Basin Management Committee Board of Directors will hold a **Regular Board Meeting** at **1:30 P.M.** on **September 16, 2026** at the **Los Osos Community Services District Boardroom**, located at 2122 9th Street, Suite 106, Los Osos, CA 93402. Members of the public may participate in this meeting in person or via teleconference and/or electronically.

For quick access, go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/778762508>

(This link will help connect both your browser and telephone to the call)

If not using a computer, dial 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (346) 248-779 and enter **778 762 508**

All persons desiring to speak during any Public Comment can submit a comment by:

- Email at danheimel@ConfluenceES.com by 5:00 PM on the day prior to the Committee meeting.
- Teleconference by phone at 1 (669) 900-6833 and enter **778 762 508**
- Teleconference by phone at 1 (346) 248-7799 and enter **778 762 508**
- Teleconference meeting at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/778762508>
- Mail by 5:00 PM on the day prior to the Committee meeting to:

Attn: Dan HeimeI (Basin Management Committee)
2122 9th St.
Suite 110
Los Osos, CA 93402

Los Osos Basin Management Committee Website: Go to <https://www.losososbmc.org/> to view agendas, agenda packets, meeting recordings, important documents, and BMC news. Click "join our mailing list" in the lower right-hand corner of the page to receive email updates and meeting notifications.

Directors: Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and may not necessarily be considered in numerical order.

NOTE: The Basin Management Committee reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all possible accommodations will be made for individuals with disabilities, so they may participate in the meeting. Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to participate in the meeting of the BMC are encouraged to request such accommodation 48 hours in advance of the meeting from Dan HeimeI at danheimel@ConfluenceES.com.

BASIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board members may make brief comments, provide project status updates, or communicate with other directors, staff, or the public regarding non-agenda topics.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- a. None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

The following routine items listed below are scheduled for consideration as a group. Each item is recommended for approval unless noted and may be approved in their entirety by one motion. Any member of the public who wishes to comment on any Consent Agenda item may do so at this time. Consent items generally require no discussion. However, any Director may request that any item be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda and moved to the "Action Items" portion of the Agenda to permit discussion or to change the recommended course of action. The Board may approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda on one motion.

- a. **Approval of 2026 Financial Reports**
- b. **Approval of Minutes from the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting**

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

The Basin Management Committee will consider public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Basin Management Committee. The Basin Management Committee cannot enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments at this time. Such items may only be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. The presiding Chair shall limit public comments to three minutes.

8. LOS OSOS BASIN UPDATE REPORT

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Broderson Leach Field Update**

Recommendation: Receive and file information on the status of the Broderson Leach Field.

- b. **Los Osos Basin Geophysics Update**

Recommendation: Receive the update on the status of the geophysics investigation.

- c. **Draft Los Osos Basin Management Committee 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter**

Recommendation: Receive information on potential growth rates and select a growth rate recommendation to include in the Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter to the County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director. Direct Staff to finalize the letter with the selected growth rate recommendation and authorize the BMC Chair to approve the final letter and submit it to the County or provide alternate direction to Staff.

10. Future Agenda Items

Board Members may provide Staff Direction to agendaize items for future meetings.

11. ADJOURNMENT

TO: Los Osos Basin Management Committee

FROM: Daniel Heimel, Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 6 – Consent Agenda

Recommendations

- a. BMC Staff recommends that the BMC review and consider approval of Financial Reports or provide alternate direction to Staff.
- b. BMC Staff recommends that the BMC review and consider approval of Meeting Minutes or provide alternate direction to Staff.

Discussion

BMC Staff prepared summary Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes from previous BMC Meetings for the BMC's review and approval consideration (see attachments).

Technical Services Status

At the [November 12, 2025 Special BMC Meeting](#), the Board adopted the CY 2026 BMC Budget. Included in that budget is \$15,000 for Line Item 5: Technical Services. The Technical Services budget is designated for as-needed technical services and may be used for a variety of BMC projects or initiatives. The Technical Services use in CY 2026 is shown below:

CY 2026 Line Item 5: Tech Services Use		
Original Technical Services Budget	\$15,000	
CHG – AMR OpenET SMB	-\$5,000	Board allocated \$5,000 at the January 28, 2026 BMC Meeting . All spent to date.
CHG – Transient Model Redaction	-\$993.75	Redacted sensitive information from files prior to providing to Cal Poly. Budget up to \$1,000 approved by ED.
CHG – Pumping distribution review, communications, Staff meeting	-\$800	Approved by ED.
CHG – 2025 AMR response to public and Board comments, add new water level metric graph with interpretations	-\$3,482.50	The ED can approve use of up to \$5k of the tech services budget. This invoice would exceed the \$5k threshold, thus Board approval was required for this invoice. Approved by Board at the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting .
CHG – Tidal correction appendix for Basin Metric review	-\$4,725	The ED can approve use of up to \$5k of the tech services budget. This invoice would exceed the \$5k threshold, thus Board approval was required for this invoice. Approved by Board at the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting . Since this invoice slightly

		exceeds the entire \$15,000 Tech Services budget, the Board approved utilizing contingency to cover the \$1.25 overage.
Contingency Use for Tech Services	\$1.25	The Board approved utilizing contingency to cover the \$1.25 overage at the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting .
Remaining Tech Services Budget	\$0	

Contingency Status

At the [November 12, 2025 Special BMC Meeting](#), the Board adopted the CY 2026 BMC Budget. Included in that budget is \$17,235 in contingency. The contingency use in CY 2026 is shown below:

Contingency Use in CY 2026		
Original Contingency Budget	\$17,235	
CHG - Tech services overage	-\$1.25	Approved by Board at the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting.
(New) Budget Item 13 - SS Monitoring Well Additional Construction Funds	-\$17,233.75	Board approved use of contingency/reserves in the amount of \$27,215 at the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting (\$17,233.75 from contingency + \$9,981.25 from reserves = \$27,215). These funds will only be utilized after match/grant funds have been utilized.
Current Remaining Contingency	\$0	

Reserves Status

As part of the CY 2024 closeout, leftover funds were carried over in a reserve fund (see the [April 16, 2025 BMC Meeting](#)). The reserve fund started at \$70,406 and was utilized for multiple projects in CY 2025, each with use acquiring Board approval. By the end of CY 2025, \$12,787 remained. At the [May 29, 2026 Special BMC Meeting](#), an additional \$11,554 was added to the reserve fund as part of the CY 2025 closeout. The reserves use in CY 2026 is shown below:

Reserve Use in CY 2026		
Remaining reserves at end of CY 2025	\$12,787	
Reserves added as part of CY 2025 closeout	\$11,554	At the May 29, 2026 Special BMC Meeting , an additional \$11,554 was added to the reserve fund as part of the CY 2025 closeout.
GSI -Transient Model	-\$3,153.75	GSI for services completed in October 2025 for services related to interfacing with Randy Hansen and Jim McCord (who were working under a separate arrangement with Blaine/County) on the Transient Model. Approved by Board at the March 18, 2026 BMC Meeting .
(New) Budget Item 13 - SS Monitoring Well Additional Construction Funds	-\$9,981.25	Board approved use of contingency/reserves in the amount of \$27,215 at the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting (\$17,233.75 from contingency +

		\$9,981.25 from reserves = \$27,215). These funds will only be utilized after match/grant funds have been utilized.
Current Remaining Reserves	\$11,205	

Since it was determined that HCP credits will not be required for the geophysics investigations, there may be a future opportunity for the BMC to replenish the reserve fund utilizing the \$13,357 remaining budget allocated for geophysics HCP credits. BMC Staff may alternatively recommend utilizing these funds for other aspects of the geophysics project.

Attachments

1. Cost Summary (January 2026 to Current Date for Calendar Year 2026 Budget)
2. Invoice Register for Los Osos BMC for Calendar Year 2026
3. Monthly Financial Documents (Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Balance Sheet, Reconcile Cash Accounts, and Warrant Register)
4. Minutes from the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting

Attachment 1: Cost Summary (January 2026 to Current Date) for Calendar Year 2026 Budget

Item	Description	Budget Amount	Approved Allocation Modifications	Updated Allocated Budget Amount	Costs Incurred	Percent Incurred	Remaining Budget
1	BMC Administration and Facilitation	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$48,188	48.2%	\$51,813
2	BMC Website Hosting	\$2,100		\$2,100	\$2,016	96.0%	\$84
3	BMC Accounting Services	\$6,300		\$6,300	\$2,349	37.3%	\$3,951
4	BMC Legal Counsel	\$20,000		\$20,000	\$720	3.6%	\$19,280
5	Technical Support Services	\$15,000	\$1	\$15,001	\$15,000	100.0%	\$1
6	2026 Groundwater Monitoring	\$76,000		\$76,000	\$41,239	54.3%	\$34,761
7	2025 Annual Report	\$76,800		\$76,800	\$76,798	100.0%	\$3
8	Basin Metric Update	\$18,500		\$18,500	\$18,493	100.0%	\$8
9	Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Monitoring Well HCP credits)	\$15,000	\$1,643	\$16,643	\$16,643	100.0%	\$0
10	Los Osos Geophysics Interpretation (HCP credits)	\$15,000	-\$1,643	\$13,357	\$0	0.0%	\$13,357
	Subtotal	\$344,700					\$123,257
	5% Contingency	\$17,235	-\$17,235	\$0	\$0	100.0%	\$0
	Total	\$361,935		\$344,701	\$221,444	61.2%	\$123,257
11	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Monitoring Well Match)	\$37,683		\$37,683	\$7,799	20.7%	\$29,884
12	Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (Rose Foundation Grant Funding for SS Monitoring Well)	\$150,000		\$150,000	\$0	0.0%	\$150,000
13	SS Monitoring Well Additional Construction Funds	\$0	\$27,216	\$27,216	\$0	100.0%	\$27,216
14	Reserve funds	\$12,787	\$11,554				
			-\$9,982	\$14,359	\$3,155	22.0%	\$11,204
	Total Funds:	\$573,959		Total Expenditures:	\$232,398	Total Remaining:	\$341,561
	LOCSD (38%)	\$137,535					
	GSWC (38%)	\$137,535					
	County of SLO/SLOCFC&WCD (20%)	\$72,387					
	S&T Mutual (4%)	\$14,477					

Attachment 2: Invoice Register for Los Osos BMC for Calendar Year 2026

Vendor	Invoice No.	Amount	Month of Service	Description	Budget Item	Date Executive Director Approved	Date BMC Chairperson Approved	Date BMC Approved
GSI	02136.001-8	\$ 3,153.75	Oct-25	Reserve Funds - Tech Services (WRFPP Study Peer Review - Year 2)	13			Mar-26
CHG	20251109	\$ 14,262.50	Nov-25	2025 Annual Report	7	Feb-26		
CHG	20251206	\$6,880.00	Dec-25	2025 Annual Report	7	Feb-26		
Stilts	2026-1	\$ 554.99	Dec-25 and Jan-26	BMC Accounting Services	3	Feb-26		
CHG	20260109	\$ 30,372.50	Jan-26	2025 Annual Report	7	Feb-26		
CHG	20260110	\$3,130.00	Jan-26	Basin Metric Update	8	Feb-26		
CHG	20260111	\$570.00	Jan-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Monitoring Well Match)	11	Feb-26		
ConfluenceES	1379	\$9,495.00	Jan-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Mar-26	
Streamline	9877A921-0004	\$2,016.00	Feb-26	BMC Website Hosting	2	Mar-26		
ConfluenceES	1384	\$5,062.50	Feb-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Apr-26	
CHG	20260210	\$11,660.00	Feb-26	2025 Annual Report	7	May-26		
CHG	20260211	\$5,250.00	Feb-26	Basin Metric Update	8	May-26		
CHG	20260212	\$800.00	Feb-26	Technical Support Services	5	May-26		
CHG	20260213	\$400.00	Feb-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Monitoring Well Match)	11	May-26		
CHG	20260309	\$7,710.00	Mar-26	2025 Annual Report	7	Apr-26		
CHG	20260310	\$8,917.50	Mar-26	Basin Metric Update	8	Apr-26		
CHG	20260311	\$4,550.00	Mar-26	Technical Support Services	5	Apr-26		
CHG	20260312	\$5,425.00	Mar-26	Groundwater Monitoring	6	Apr-26		
CHG	20260313	\$ 1,280.00	Mar-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Monitoring Well Match)	11	Apr-26		
ConfluenceES	1392	\$ 9,126.25	Mar-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Apr-26	
Stilts	2026-2&3	\$ 918.75	Feb-Mar 26	BMC Accounting Services	3	Apr-26		
Wallace Group	67636	\$ 264.00	Mar-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Monitoring Well Match)	11	May-26		
RWG	258239	\$ 720.00	Mar-26	BMC Legal Counsel	4	May-26		
CHG	20260410	\$ 3,375.00	Apr-26	2025 Annual Report	7	May-26		
CHG	20260411	\$ 1,443.75	Apr-26	Technical Support Services	5	May-26		
CHG	20260412	\$ 21,469.55	Apr-26	Groundwater Monitoring	6	May-26		
Stilts	2026-4	\$ 218.75	Apr-26	BMC Accounting Services	3	May-26		
ConfluenceES	1405	\$ 4,033.75	Apr-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Jun-26	
Stilts	2026-5	\$ 262.50	May-26	BMC Accounting Services	3	Jun-26		
CHG	20260508	\$ 2,012.50	May-26	2025 Annual Report	7	Jun-26		
CHG	20260509	\$ 9,639.70	May-26	2026 Groundwater Monitoring	6	Jun-26		
ConfluenceES	1418	\$ 10,195.00	May-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Jun-26	
Wallace Group	68085	\$ 594.00	May-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program	11	Jul-26		

CHG/County	INV2026-03890	\$ 16,642.80	Jun-26	Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements (SS Montioring Well HCP credits)	9			Jun-26
Stilts	2026-6	\$ 175.00	Jun-26	BMC Accounting Services	3	Jul-26		
CHG	20260608	\$ 525.00	Jun-26	2025 Annual Report	7	Jul-26		
CHG	20260609	\$ 1,195.00	Jun-26	Basin Metric Update	8	Jul-26		
CHG	20260611	\$ 1,555.00	Jun-26	2026 Groundwater Monitoring	6	Jul-26		
CHG	20260610	\$ 3,482.50	Jun-26	Technical Support Services	5			Aug-26
EAM	789	\$ 550.00	Jun-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program	11	Jul-26		
ConfluenceES	1436	\$ 6,977.50	Jun-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Jul-26	
ConfluenceES	1442	\$ 3,297.50	Jul-26	BMC Administration and Facilitation	1		Aug-26	
CHG	20260707	\$ 4,725.00	Jul-26	Technical Support Services	5			Aug-26
CHG	20260708	\$ 3,150.00	Jul-26	2026 Groundwater Monitoring	6	Aug-26		
CHG	20260709	\$ 3,440.00	Jul-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program	11	Aug-26		
Stilts	2026-8	\$ 218.75	Jul/Aug 2026	BMC Accounting Services	3	Sep-26		
CSD/Wallace Group	68579	\$ 462.00	Jul-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program	11	Sep-26		
CSD/McClatchy Media	138409	\$ 239.20	Jul-26	CY 2025 Carryover for Groundwater Monitoring Program	11	Sep-26		
	2026 Total	\$232,398.49						To be approved

Los Osos Basin Management Committee

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

100 - BMC

From 8/1/2026 Through 8/31/2026

	Current Period Actual	Current Year Actual	Total Budget \$ - Original	Total Budget \$ Variance - Original	Percent Total Budget Remaining - Original
Operating Revenue					
Grant Revenue					
4050 Grant Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Grant Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Contributions					
4010 LOCSD	0.00	137,535.00	137,535.00	0.00	0.00%
4020 GSWC	0.00	137,535.00	137,535.00	0.00	0.00%
4030 County of SLO	0.00	72,387.00	72,387.00	0.00	0.00%
4040 S&T Mutual Water Co.	0.00	14,477.00	14,477.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Contributions	0.00	361,934.00	361,934.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Operating Revenue	0.00	361,934.00	361,934.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Revenue	0.00	361,934.00	361,934.00	0.00	0.00%
Expenditures					
Program Expenses					
5010 Administration and Facilitation	0.00	48,187.50	100,000.00	51,812.50	51.81%
5020 Website Hosting	0.00	2,016.00	2,100.00	84.00	4.00%
5030 Accounting Services	218.75	2,351.24	6,300.00	3,948.76	62.68%
5040 Legal Counsel	0.00	720.00	20,000.00	19,280.00	96.40%
5050 Meeting Expenses: Audio and Video Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
5060 Technical Support Services	0.00	15,001.25	15,001.25	0.00	0.00%
5070 Groundwater Monitoring	0.00	41,239.25	76,000.00	34,760.75	45.74%
5080 Annual Report	0.00	76,797.50	76,800.00	2.50	0.00%
5085 Basin Metric Update	0.00	18,492.50	18,500.00	7.50	0.04%
5090 WRFPP Study Peer Review	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
5095 WRFPP Study Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
6000 Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
6010 2024 LA 16 & 14 Modification	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
6020 GMPI - SS Monitoring Well HCP Credits	0.00	16,642.80	16,643.00	0.20	0.00%
6030 Los Osos Geophysics Interpretation - HCP Credits	0.00	0.00	13,357.00	13,357.00	100.00%
7000 Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Program Expenses	218.75	221,448.04	344,701.25	123,253.21	35.76%
Carryovers					
7050 CY 2025 Carryover for GMPI - SS Monitoring Well Match	0.00	7,799.20	37,683.00	29,883.80	79.30%
7060 GMPI - Rose Grant Funding for SS Monitoring Well	0.00	0.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	100.00%
7070 SS Monitoring Well Additional Construction Funds	0.00	0.00	27,215.00	27,215.00	100.00%
Total Carryovers	0.00	7,799.20	214,898.00	207,098.80	96.37%
Total Expenditures	218.75	229,247.24	559,599.25	330,352.01	59.03%
Net Revenue Over Expenditures	<u>(218.75)</u>	<u>132,686.76</u>	<u>(197,665.25)</u>	<u>330,352.01</u>	<u>(167.13)%</u>

Los Osos Basin Management CommitteeBalance Sheet
As of 8/31/2026

		Current Period Balance
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents		
General Checking Account	1012	350,679.23
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		350,679.23
Total Current Assets		350,679.23
Total Assets		350,679.23
Liabilities		
Short-term Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Vendor Payable (Control Account)	2000	9,127.45
Total Accounts Payable		9,127.45
Total Short-term Liabilities		9,127.45
Total Liabilities		9,127.45
Net Assets		
Current YTD Net Income		
REVENUES		361,934.00
EXPENDITURES		(229,247.24)
EQUITY		
Fund Balance	3200	28,280.02
Carryover for GMPI - SS	3300	30,585.00
Monitoring Well Match		
GMPI - Rose Grant Funding for SS	3400	150,000.00
Monitoring Well		
Total EQUITY		208,865.02
Total Current YTD Net Income		341,551.78
Total Net Assets		341,551.78
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		350,679.23

**Los Osos Basin Management Committee
Reconcile Cash Accounts**

Summary

Cash Account: 1012 General Checking Account

Reconciliation ID: Bank Account Reconciliation 08312026

Reconciliation Date: 8/31/2026

Status: Locked

Bank Balance	351,404.23
Less Outstanding Checks/Vouchers	725.00
Plus Deposits in Transit	0.00
Plus or Minus Other Cash Items	0.00
Plus or Minus Suspense Items	<u>0.00</u>
Reconciled Bank Balance	350,679.23
Balance Per Books	<u>350,679.23</u>
Unreconciled Difference	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

Click the Next Page toolbar button to view details.

Los Osos Basin Management Committee
Reconcile Cash Accounts

Detail

Cash Account: 1012 General Checking Account

Reconciliation ID: Bank Account Reconciliation 08312026

Reconciliation Date: 8/31/2026

Status: Locked

Outstanding Checks/Vouchers

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>Document Description</u>	<u>Document Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>
108	8/18/2026	System Generated Check/Voucher	550.00	Ecological Assets Management, LLC
110	8/18/2026	System Generated Check/Voucher	175.00	Robert Stilts, CPA
Outstanding Checks/Vouchers			725.00	

**Los Osos Basin Management Committee
Reconcile Cash Accounts**

Detail

Cash Account: 1012 General Checking Account

Reconciliation ID: Bank Account Reconciliation 08312026

Reconciliation Date: 8/31/2026

Status: Locked

Cleared Checks/Vouchers

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>Document Description</u>	<u>Document Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>
106	8/18/2026	System Generated Check/Voucher	20,470.00	CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.
107	8/18/2026	System Generated Check/Voucher	9,865.00	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.
109	8/18/2026	System Generated Check/Voucher	594.00	Los Osos CSD
Cleared Checks/Vouchers			30,929.00	

Los Osos Basin Management Committee

Check/Voucher Register - Warrant Register

1012 - General Checking Account

From 1/1/2026 Through 12/31/2026

Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
1/19/2026	82	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	11/1/25-11/30/25 2025 Groundwater Monitoring	4,819.50
1/19/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	11/1/25-11/30/25 Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements	1,553.40
1/19/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	12/1/25-12/31/25 Groundwater Monitoring Program Improvements	1,045.00
1/19/2026	83	Robert Stilts, CPA	11/1/25-11/30/25 Accounting Services	262.50
1/30/2026	84	CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	11/1/25-12/31/25 Executive Director Services	10,256.25
1/30/2026	85	RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION	10/1/25-10/31/25 General Legal Counsel	576.00
2/3/2026	ACH_Strmlne2.3...	STREAMLINE SOFTWARE, INC.	2/1/26-2/1/27 Streamline Flex Website Hosting	2,016.00
3/13/2026	86	CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	1/1/26-1/31/26 Executive Director Services	9,495.00
3/13/2026	87	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	1/1/26-1/31/26 2025 Annual Report	30,372.50
3/13/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	1/1/26-1/31/26 Basin Metric review and update	3,130.00
3/13/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	1/1/26-1/31/26 Update specifications, meeting	570.00
3/13/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	11/1/25-11/30/25 2025 Annual Report - 2026 budget	14,262.50
3/13/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	12/1/25-12/31/25 2025 Annual Report - 2026 budget	6,880.00
3/13/2026	88	Robert Stilts, CPA	12/1/25-1/31/26 Accounting Services	554.99
4/23/2026	89	CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	2/1/26-2/28/26 Executive Director Services	5,062.50
4/23/2026		CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	3/1/26-3/31/26 Executive Director Services	9,126.25
4/23/2026	90	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	3/1/26-3/31/26 2025 Annual Report	7,710.00
4/23/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	3/1/26-3/31/26 Basin Metric review and update	8,917.50
4/23/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	3/1/26-3/31/26 Final well specs, bid sheets, communications	1,280.00
4/23/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	3/1/26-3/31/26 Groundwater Monitoring	5,425.00
4/23/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	3/1/26-3/31/26 Technical Support Services	4,550.00
4/23/2026	91	GSI Water Solutions, Inc.	10/1/25-10/31/25 WRFP Study Peer Review - Year 2	3,153.75
4/23/2026	92	Robert Stilts, CPA	2/1/26-3/31/26 Accounting Services	918.75
5/18/2026	93	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	2/1/26-2/28/26 2025 Annual Report	11,660.00
5/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	2/1/26-2/28/26 Basin Metric review and update	5,250.00
5/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	2/1/26-2/28/26 Technical Support Services	800.00

Los Osos Basin Management Committee

Check/Voucher Register - Warrant Register

1012 - General Checking Account

From 1/1/2026 Through 12/31/2026

Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount
5/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	2/1/26-2/28/26 Update specifications	400.00
5/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	4/1/26-4/30/26 2025 Annual Report	3,375.00
5/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	4/1/26-4/30/26 Groundwater Monitoring	21,469.55
5/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	4/1/26-4/30/26 Technical Support Services	1,443.75
5/18/2026	94	Los Osos CSD	3/1/26-3/31/26 SS Well Project CSD reimbursement	264.00
5/18/2026	95	RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION	3/1/26-3/31/26 General Legal Counsel	720.00
5/18/2026	96	Robert Stilts, CPA	4/1/26-4/30/26 Accounting Services	218.75
6/10/2026	100	Robert Stilts, CPA	5/1/26-5/31/26 Accounting Services	262.50
6/10/2026	97	CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	4/1/26-4/30/26 Executive Director Services	4,033.75
6/10/2026	98	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	5/1/26-5/31/26 2025 Annual Report	2,012.50
6/10/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	5/1/26-5/31/26 2026 Groundwater Monitoring	9,639.70
6/10/2026	99	Los Osos CSD	6/5/26 GMPI SS HCP Habitat fee & Restoration/Mgmt/Admin	16,642.80
8/18/2026	106	CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	5/1/26-5/31/26 Executive Director Services	10,195.00
8/18/2026		CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	6/1/26-6/30/26 Executive Director Services	6,977.50
8/18/2026		CONFLUENCE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, INC.	7/1/26-7/31/26 Executive Director Services	3,297.50
8/18/2026	107	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	6/1/26-6/30/26 2025 Annual Report	525.00
8/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	6/1/26-6/30/26 2026 Groundwater Monitoring	1,555.00
8/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	6/1/26-6/30/26 Basin Metric review and update	1,195.00
8/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	7/1/26-7/31/26 2026 Groundwater Monitoring	3,150.00
8/18/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	7/1/26-7/31/26 SS Well bidding support, engineers estimate	3,440.00
8/18/2026	108	Ecological Assets Management, LLC	6/12/26 Site Survey and Prepare Survey Memo	550.00
8/18/2026	109	Los Osos CSD	5/1/26-5/31/26 SS Well Wallace paid by CSD	594.00
8/18/2026	110	Robert Stilts, CPA	6/1/26-6/30/26 Accounting Services	175.00
9/9/2026	111	CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	6/1/26-6/30/26 Technical Support Services	3,482.50
9/9/2026		CLEATH-HARRIS GEOLOGISTS, INC.	7/1/26-7/31/26 Technical Support Services	4,725.00
9/9/2026	112	Los Osos CSD	7/1/26-7/31/26 SS Well Project CSD reimbursement	462.00

Los Osos Basin Management Committee

Check/Voucher Register - Warrant Register

1012 - General Checking Account

From 1/1/2026 Through 12/31/2026

<u>Document Date</u>	<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Transaction Description</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
9/9/2026		Los Osos CSD	7/8/26 & 7/12/26 Tribune SS Well Project CSD reimbursement	239.20
9/9/2026	113	Robert Stilts, CPA	7/1/26-8/31/26 Accounting Services	218.75
Report Total				250,911.14

BASIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Agenda Item 6b: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 19, 2026

The following is a summary of the actions taken at the Basin Management Committee Board of Directors Meeting.
The official record for the meeting is the recording that can be found at:

<https://www.losososbmc.org/>

Agenda Item	Discussion or Action
1. Call to Order	Chair Zimmer called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM (00:00:01).
2. Roll Call	Daniel Heimel, Executive Director, called roll to begin the meeting. Chair Zimmer, Director Reineke, Director Cesena, and Director Gibson were present (00:00:20).
3. Pledge of Allegiance	Pledge of Allegiance (00:01:36)
4. Board Member Comments	Board Discussion (00:02:00) None Public Comment None
5. Special Presentation	None (00:02:18)
6. Consent Agenda 6a. Approval of 2026 Financial Reports 6b. Approval of Minutes from the June 17, 2026 BMC Meeting 6c. Approval of the proposed technical services budget use and contingency use	Consent Agenda (00:02:22) Recommendation: - BMC Staff recommends that the BMC review and consider approval of Financial Reports or provide alternate direction to Staff. - BMC Staff recommends that the BMC review and consider approval of Meeting Minutes or provide alternate direction to Staff. - BMC Staff recommends that the BMC approve the proposed technical services budget use and contingency use or provide alternate direction to Staff. Public Comment None Board Action on Consent Agenda (00:03:06) The Board reviewed and approved the Financial Reports. The Board approved the June 17, 2026 BMC Meeting Minutes. The Board approved of the proposed budget reallocation. Motion: Director Gibson Second: Director Reineke Ayes: All Nays: None Passes: 4-0
7. Public Comments on Items Not Appearing on the Agenda	Public Comment (00:03:27) Jeff Edwards Patrick McGibney Board discussion (00:10:00)

8. Los Osos Basin Update Report	Los Osos Basin Update Report (00:10:31) Public Comment (00:15:50) Lynette Brooks Jeff Edwards Patrick McGibney Richard Margetson Board Discussion (00:27:15)
9. Action Items	
9a. Sustainable Yield Estimate for Calendar Year 2027	Sustainable Yield Estimate for Calendar Year 2027 (00:28:35) Recommendation: Consider approval of the proposed Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,000 AFY for Calendar Year 2027 or provide alternate direction to Staff. Board Discussion (00:34:05) Public Comment (00:35:50) Lynette Brooks Patrick McGibney Richard Margetson Board Discussion (00:41:50) Board Action (00:49:40) The Board approved the proposed Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,000 AFY for Calendar Year 2027. Motion: Director Gibson Second: Director Reineke Ayes: All Nays: None Passes: 4-0
9b. Sweet Springs Monitoring Well Construction Bid Award and Budget Reallocation	Sweet Springs Monitoring Well Construction Bid Award and Budget Reallocation (00:50:30) Recommendation: Receive the recommendation and consider approval of the selection of Filiponi and Thompson to provide Construction Services for the Sweet Springs Monitoring Well. Approve the reallocation of reserve funds and contingency funds to the Sweet Springs Monitoring Well Project budget to cover anticipated overages and authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed contingency as needed. Public Comment (00:53:50) Jeff Edwards Board Discussion (00:55:05) Board Action (00:56:20)

	The Board approved the selection of Filiponi and Thompson to provide Construction Services for the Sweet Springs Monitoring Well. The Board approved the reallocation of reserve funds and contingency funds to the Sweet Springs Monitoring Well Project budget to cover anticipated overages and authorized the Executive Director to execute the proposed contingency as needed. Motion: Director Gibson Second: Director Reineke Ayes: All Nays: None Passes: 4-0
10. Future Agenda Items	Future Agenda Items (00:56:56) Discuss completing UC Davis survey on basin management at a Staff level <u>Public Comment</u> None
11. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:32pm (01:00:30). The next regularly scheduled meeting is on September 16, 2026.

TO: Los Osos Basin Management Committee

FROM: Dan Heimerl, Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 8 – Los Osos Basin Update Report

Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Basin Management Committee (BMC) receive and file the Los Osos Basin Update Report and provide staff with any direction for future discussions. Sections of the Los Osos Basin Update Report that have been updated or significantly changed from the previous meeting's version are underlined and sections of the report that have not had any recent or anticipated updates have been removed.

Discussion

This report was prepared to summarize updates on matters not covered in other agenda items and to provide a general update on Los Osos Basin-related activities.

Tentative Upcoming Agenda Items

- WRF Study Recommended Projects
 - Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment Alternatives – TBD
 - Water Resiliency Intertie Pipeline – TBD
 - Urban Reuse at Baywood Elementary School and Sunnyside Elementary School – TBD
 - Los Osos Valley Memorial Park and Agricultural Reuse – TBD
- Basin Metric Update Evaluation – October 2026
- Broderick Disposal Site Overview – September 2026
- Purveyor Pumping Distribution Optimization – TBD, ongoing updates in Los Osos Basin Update Report
- Basin Plan Update – TBD
- Stormwater Recharge Study – TBD
- CY 2026 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter – September 2026
- Director Cesena requested Staff consider responding to a survey for UC Small Farms Network, and if fitting for the BMC to respond to the survey, to bring draft answers to a future Board Meeting
 - BMC Staff reviewed the survey and determined that, because the survey is very specific to GSAs, it would not be appropriate for the BMC to complete the survey.

WRF Study

The WRF Study included development of a Transient Groundwater Model (Transient Model) and preparation of a Water Recycling Funding Program Facilities Planning Study (WRF Study) for the

community of Los Osos. The purpose of the Transient Model and WRF Study is to develop an accurate groundwater model for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin and to evaluate recycled water and supplemental supply alternatives to improve groundwater sustainability. The Final Draft WRF Study Report was approved by the Board at the November 12, 2025 Special BMC Meeting. The Final Draft was submitted to the State Board. The State provided the Final Approval Letter on January 21, 2026. The WRF Study Report includes several recommended projects:

- **Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment Alternatives**
Staff are holding discussions on this alternative and potential next steps.
- **Urban Reuse at Baywood Elementary School and Sunnyside Elementary School**
Staff are holding discussions on this alternative and potential next steps.
- **Los Osos Valley Memorial Park and Agricultural Reuse – TBD**
Staff are holding discussions on this alternative and potential next steps.
- **Los Osos CSD's Water Resiliency Intertie Project Update**
The Los Osos Community Services District (CSD) continues to make progress towards implementation of the Water Resiliency Intertie Project (Intertie Project) since they began investigations into alternative water supply sources in 2021. Efforts to date include the preparation of a preliminary design report, environmental review, and the pursuit of funding sources. The conceptual strategy involves using supplemental water from the State Water Project during wet years as an offset for groundwater pumping, allowing for long-term recovery of the Los Osos Groundwater Basin. During dry years, the CSD would rely more on groundwater. This approach enhances long-term resiliency while avoiding overreliance on outside sources.

At the September 4, 2025 CSD Board meeting, the Board approved a contract with Water Systems Consulting in the amount of \$854,044 to provide design services for the project..

Project design work is behind schedule due to the complicated nature of geography and geology in the State Park area and the extended effort to complete the design of the Los Osos Creek bridge crossing segment of the project. The CSD will be coordinating with the County of San Luis Obispo (County) and the bridge contractor to assist with selecting a contractor for the installation of the pipeline. The 30% design documents have been completed. 100% designs are anticipated to be completed in February 2027. Construction for the portion of the pipeline on the bridge crossing is anticipated to begin in March 2027.

Staff anticipate bringing an item to the Board at a future meeting to discuss how the BMC can collaborate with the CSD on this project.

Basin Metric Evaluation

Since 2019, the BMC has made significant improvements to its Groundwater Monitoring Program, including construction of the Sweet Springs/Cuesta-by-the-Sea and Skyline Monitoring Wells and modifications to Lower Aquifer (LA) 13, 14, and 16 wells. These additional/enhanced monitoring

locations provide an opportunity to improve the Basin Metrics that the BMC utilizes to assess the health of the Basin. Additionally, the modification of LA 14 and 16 to dedicated Lower Aquifer Zone E monitoring wells changed the depth of the screened intervals so that water level readings collected at these wells now reflect Zone E water level elevations only and not the combined water level elevation of Zone D and E and thus the Water Level Metric Methodology needs to be modified to account for this change.

CHG is working on an initiative to evaluate the existing metrics and provide recommendations to the BMC for changes that can be made to incorporate the improvements to the Groundwater Monitoring Program and will bring them to the BMC for their consideration at a future date. The Board approved CHG's proposal for metric review and update services at the [November 12, 2025 BMC Meeting](#). Staff intend to bring an item on the updated metrics to the Board at the **October 2026 BMC Meeting**.

Broderon Disposal Site Update

An informational item is included in the **September 2026 BMC Meeting** agenda packet.

Purveyor Pumping Distribution Optimization

At the October 15, 2025 BMC Meeting, the Board adopted a sustainable yield of 2,000 AFY for CY 2026. This Sustainable Yield is based on an optimized pumping distribution over 50 years. While the Purveyors' current pumping does not follow this optimized pumping distribution, the Purveyors are making efforts to optimize their pumping distribution. This section of the Los Osos Basin Update Report is intended to provide updates and challenges related to the efforts to the pumping distribution optimization. There are operational challenges associated with optimizing the pumping distribution, including nitrate and chrome 6 blending limitations, production limitations, etc. Staff met with CHG on February 24, 2026 to discuss potential infrastructure modifications and/or additions to existing infrastructure necessary to achieve the optimized pumping distribution.

Purveyor	Initiatives to Achieve Distribution Pumping Optimization	Update
Golden State Water	1. New Replacement Well 2. Los Olivos PFAS Treatment System 3. South Bay Well Manganese Treatment System 4. Pumping Distribution and Demand Balance Analysis	1. Site selection in process 2. In Design 3. <u>South Bay Well- Construction complete; well back in service</u> 4. In process
Los Osos CSD	Operational Crew Review of the Pumping Plan	The CSD water crew is looking at the feasibility to operate the system according to the plan. It is obvious that there will need to be some changes made based on the various operational requirements.

		<u>Bay Oaks well is currently highest production well for the CSD but runtime will be reduced to better align with proposed model. 10th and 8th Street will incrementally be increased to meet demand with reduction of Bay Oaks. All other wells to remain as currently used at this time.</u>
S&T Mutual Water Company	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Sustainable Yield

At its October 27th, 2021 Meeting, the BMC unanimously approved an updated Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,380 Acre-Feet per Year (AFY) for Calendar Year 2022 and at its December 6th, 2023 Meeting, the BMC unanimously approved retaining the current Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,380 AFY for CY 2024 for the following reasons: 1) No new infrastructure, not already considered in the 2022 Sustainable Yield Estimate, has been constructed; 2) estimates for the development of the Broderson Mound and long-term average rainfall were updated and incorporated into the CY 2022 Sustainable Yield Estimate and are not anticipated to change significantly on a year-over-year basis; 3) no significant hydrogeologic investigations have been conducted that would warrant an update to the steady-state groundwater model utilized to develop the Sustainable Yield Estimate. For these same reasons, the BMC unanimously approved retaining the current Sustainable Yield Estimate of 2,380 AFY for CY 2025 at its [October 16th, 2024 Meeting](#). Staff brought a presentation on the calculation of the Sustainable Yield estimate for 2026 to the October 2, 2025 Special BMC Meeting. The Board approved the proposed CY 2026 Sustainable Yield of 2,000 AFY at the [October 15, 2025 BMC Meeting](#). The Sustainable Yield Estimate of 2,000 AFY for CY 2027 was approved at the [August 19 2026 BMC Meeting](#).

Lower Aquifer Nitrate Investigation

On October 19th, 2022 the BMC authorized Calendar Year (CY) 2022 funding to perform additional Nitrate Source Investigation to better understand the source of Nitrate impacting lower aquifer production wells. However, due to the inability to obtain well owner permission to sample the desired wells, much of that work was not completed in 2022. Subsequently, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff reviewed the investigation information and findings available to date and provided a presentation to the BMC at its March 15th, 2023 Meeting. BMC Party Staff is working with RWQCB Staff to identify potential additional investigations to help better inform the sources of the nitrate in the LA8 Well. On March 8th, 2024 and April 29th, 2024 BMC Staff received updates from RWQCB Staff on the status of their investigation into the source of nitrate impacting water supply wells in the western Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin.

Basin Monitoring Program Improvement/Sweet Springs Monitoring Well (Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program Grant)

The Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program is offered by the Rose Foundation, in collaboration with the Central Coast Water Board and the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay. This program is dedicated to funding water quality improvement projects within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

On June 12th, 2024, the BMC authorized the preparation of an application for the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grant Program to request \$150k for the construction of a new, lower aquifer monitoring well. The grant application was submitted on July 12th, 2024 and on September 19th, 2024 BMC Staff received an email indicating that the BMC's application is being recommended to the Rose Foundation's Board of Directors for funding. On September 24th, 2024 the Rose Foundation notified the BMC Executive Director of the grant award selection and sent an agreement for the BMC to execute. To fulfill the requirements of the Rose Foundation Grant the BMC would provide the required 25% (\$50,000) match funding from the Monitoring Network Improvements budget item in the 2025 Calendar Year Budget. The BMC Executive Director executed the grant agreement with the Rose Foundation on October 22nd, 2024. On December 24th, 2024, the grant funds were deposited into the BMC's bank account. On February 18, 2025, LOCSD and the BMC released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Hydrogeological Consultant Procurement for the Sweet Springs Monitoring Well (Los Osos Basin Lower Aquifer Water Quality Monitoring Well). Proposals were due March 18th, 2025. The Board approved Staff's recommendation of the selection of Cleath-Harris Geologists (CHG) as the hydrogeological consultant for this project at the [May 21, 2025 BMC Meeting](#). Construction has been delayed until due to the need to acquire HCP credits prior to construction. Due to the recent May 2025 designation of Morro Manzanita as a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act, the County was short on available HCP credits for projects for the next year. The County received HCP credits on May 1st and began accepting applications from the community for these credits. The BMC submitted their Development Request Form (application) to apply for HCP credits for the Sweet Springs Monitoring Well Project in early May 2026. The application was approved in early June after the BMC completed archeological and biological visual surveys. On June 5, the \$16,562.80 fee for HCP credits was paid by the BMC. The Certificate of Inclusion (COI) was received in early August 2026. The encroachment permit has been issued. The bid was released on 07/06/2026 and closed on 08/07/2026. At the [August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting](#), the BMC approved award to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, Filiponi and Thompson.

County Planning's Land Use Planning Process Update

Guide to Planning Information for Development in Los Osos:

This website provides relevant planning information for the community of Los Osos, including the Growth Management Ordinance, the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan and mitigation credit requirements, and frequently asked questions: Los Osos - County of San Luis Obispo

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/grid-items/communities-villages/los-osos>

Los Osos Community Plan:

The Los Osos Community Plan (LOCP) was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on October 29, 2024. The LOCP and amendments to the Estero Area Plan were certified by the California Coastal Commission at a hearing on December 11, 2024. Both the [LOCP](#) and [Estero Area Plan](#) are now in effect.

CY 2026 Los Osos Growth Rate

https://www.losososbmc.org/draft-los-osos-basin-management-committee-2026-growth-rate-recommendation-letterhttps://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/file/getfile/174419https://slocounty.granicus.com/player/clip/4941?view_id=46&redirect=true

The adopted maximum growth rate in CY 2026 for the community of Los Osos is 0.4% (25 new dwelling units).

Staff intend to bring a recommendation for the CY 2027 growth rate to the Board at the September BMC meeting.

Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP):

The Los Osos HCP provides a pathway for infill development and new construction for residential, commercial, community, and public infrastructure projects that are currently on hold because of potential harm or “take” to the listed threatened and endangered species in Los Osos such as Morro Bay kangaroo rat, Morro shoulderband snail, Indian knob mountainbalm, and Morro manzanita.

The County’s Incidental Take Permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service allows the County to provide take coverage for covered activities resulting in ground disturbance that comply with Los Osos HCP requirements by: obtaining habitat mitigation credits and performing required avoidance and minimization measures. The initial pool of habitat mitigation credits became available for eligible projects on May 1, 2026. Applicants are required to submit a Development Request Form (DRF) to the County to request available habitat mitigation credits prior to land use permit/construction permit submittal.

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/planning-building/grid-items/communities-villages/los-osos>

Title 19 Retrofit-to-Build

No Title 19 Retrofit-to-Build certificates were issued between June – July 2026.

The following table summarizes Title 19 Retrofit-to-Build certificates which have been issued through July 31, 2026.

Title 19 Retrofit-to-Build Certificates		
Total Issued (since 2008)	Issued in June 2026	Issued in July 2026
65	0	0

Los Osos Retrofit-to-Build participant interest list: <https://forms.office.com/g/nSzMkctu0Uh>

Please see the Los Osos page on County's website linked [here](#) for more information on Title 19 certificates and growth in Los Osos.

Title 19 Retrofit-to-Build Nexus Study

The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building (County) is preparing an in-lieu fee nexus study to evaluate whether an in-lieu fee could serve as an alternative means of complying with the water conservation requirements of County Code Title 19. Under a potential in-lieu fee program, applicants for qualifying development could pay a fee in lieu of completing required plumbing fixture retrofits. Revenues generated by the fee would be used to fund projects that provide equivalent or greater groundwater sustainability benefits.

A nexus study evaluates whether there is a reasonable relationship between a proposed fee and the public benefit provided by the project or projects funded by that fee. As part of the study, the County, through a staff level process that included input and deliberation about various water treatment and supply projects for the basin, has selected the proposed Water Resiliency Intertie Project as the project to be evaluated for its potential to provide groundwater sustainability benefits equivalent to or greater than those achieved through the existing Title 19 plumbing retrofit requirements.

On July 6, 2026, the County sent an email to the Los Osos water purveyors (attached) requesting comments on the proposed scope of the nexus study, including whether the Water Resiliency Intertie Project is the appropriate project for evaluation. The County's letter does not request comments on whether an in-lieu fee should ultimately be established. County staff has indicated that consideration of an in-lieu fee would occur through a separate public process should the nexus study conclude that such a fee is legally and technically supportable. Subsequently, the County stated in a meeting that two other projects may be evaluated as well, namely, the Sunnyside Recycled Water Connection Project and the Upper Aquifer Treatment Project, but that the Water Resiliency Intertie Project would be the main focus.

At the [Los Osos Community Services District's \(CSD\) August 6, 2026 Board Meeting](#), the Board authorized execution of joint comment letter regarding the scope of the Los Osos Title 19 Water Conservation Program Nexus Study. The letter is collaborative by the three Los Osos water purveyors. The letter supports focusing the nexus study on the proposed Water Resiliency Intertie Project and provides technical recommendations intended to improve the scope and methodology of the study. The letter also emphasizes that the nexus study should objectively evaluate whether an in-lieu fee is an appropriate mechanism for achieving the County's Title 19 water conservation objectives. The participating water purveyors do not presume that an in-lieu fee is warranted and have reserved judgment pending completion of the study. The letter represents a collaborative technical response developed by staff from the three Los Osos water purveyors, rather than a policy position regarding the adoption of an in-lieu fee. The letter has been executed by all purveyors and delivered to the County.

Land Use Permits

Only land use permits for projects that have seen movement in 2025/2026 are included in the table below. More detailed information on land use in Los Osos is available on the [LOCAC website](#).

Los Osos Land Use Permits			
	Pending	Approved in August 2026	2025/2026 Total Approved
Single-Family Residence	8	2	10
Mixed-Use	1	-	2

County Public Works' Los Osos Water Recycling Facility Project Update

The following table summarizes flows from the LOWRF based on the available data.

2026 LOWRF Wastewater and Recycled Water Flows (Acre Feet)

Year	Month	Influent	Broderson	Bayridge	Ag Users	Urban Irrigation*	Effluent
2026	Jan	55.44	46.98	1.31	0.002	2.98	51.34
2026	Feb	54.80	35.04	1.21	0.02	3.37	40.55
2026	Mar	60.80	31.08	1.34	0.38	9.46	42.34
2026	Apr	69.23	29.92	0.92	0.40	11.28	42.64
2026	May	58.13	41.04	1.37	0.68	10.32	54.74
2026	June	56.69	30.67	1.27	0.64	9.21	42.85
2026	July	56.71	18.52	1.28	0.32	15.64	36.03
2026	Aug	55.24	28.06	1.28	0.74	12.94	43.59

*Urban Irrigation includes recycled water usage at Sea Pines, Los Osos Middle School, Monarch Grove, Los Osos Valley Road Median, and Los Osos Community Park.

LOWRF Project Updates:

- As of July 2025, the County has connected the Los Osos Community Park, Los Osos Middle School, and Monarch Grove Elementary to the LOWRF recycled water distribution system. The County received funding for these connections through the ARPA grant program.

County Update on the Cabrillo Estates Project

On May 5, 2026, the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) received a presentation on a potential sewer system project for the Cabrillo Estates area, which is a neighborhood of approximately 260 residents located outside of the County's wastewater service area for the community of Los Osos. The service area was intended to only service the "prohibition zone" which was established by the Central Coast Regional

Water Quality Control Board. The BOS considered but did not move forward with approval of the project as requested by the Cabrillo Estates Property Owners Association (CEPOA). The BOS's direction to Public Works staff was to advise CEPOA that a reimbursement agreement would be needed to move forward on the initial costs of the project. For more information, the 5/5/26 Agenda item is available at:

<https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/iip/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/20237>

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

SGMA Overview: SGMA took effect on January 1, 2015.¹ SGMA provides new authorities to local agencies with water supply, water management or land use responsibilities and requires various actions be taken in order to achieve sustainable groundwater management in high and medium priority groundwater basins. Los Osos Valley Groundwater Basin (Los Osos Basin) was subject to SGMA based on the 2014 Basin Prioritization by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that listed the Los Osos Basin as high priority and in critical conditions of overdraft.²

Basin Prioritization: On December 18, 2019, DWR released the SGMA 2019 Basin Prioritizations. Basins or subbasins reassessed to low or very low priority basins or subbasins are not subject to SGMA regulations. A summary of DWR's Final SGMA Prioritizations for the Los Osos Area Subbasin and Warden Creek Subbasin are listed below:

- Los Osos Area Subbasin is listed as **very low** priority for SGMA³ and in critical conditions of overdraft⁴
- SGMA does not apply to the portions of Los Osos Basin that are adjudicated provided that certain requirements are met (Water Code §10720.8).
- Warden Creek Subbasin is listed as **very low** priority for SGMA³

For more information on DWR's basin boundary modification and prioritization process, please visit: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization>

¹ On September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, composed of AB 1739 (Dickinson), SB 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley), collectively known as SGMA

² SGMA mandates that all groundwater basins identified by DWR as high- or medium-priority by January 31, 2015, must have groundwater sustainability agencies established by June 30, 2017. The act also requires that all high- and medium-priority basins classified as being subject to critical conditions of overdraft in Bulletin 118, as of January 1, 2017, be covered by groundwater sustainability plans, or their equivalent, by January 31, 2020. Groundwater sustainability plans, or their equivalent, must be established for all other high- and medium-priority basins by January 31, 2022.

³ As noted by DWR, the priority for the subbasin has been set to very low (0 total priority points) as a result of conditions being met under sub-component C of the Draft SGMA 2019 Basin Prioritizations.

⁴ Critical conditions of overdraft have been identified in 21 groundwater basins as described in Bulletin 118 (Water Code Section 12924). Bulletin 118 (updates 2003) defines a groundwater basin subject to condition of critical overdraft as: "A basin is subject to critical conditions of overdraft when continuation of present water management practices would probably result in significant adverse overdraft-related environmental, social, or economic impacts."

Additional Attachments:

1. Updated Status of Basin Plan Infrastructure Projects

Update on Status of Basin Plan Infrastructure Projects

Program Name	Project Name	Parties Involved	BMC Budgeted Amount	Funding Status	Anticipated Planning/Pre-Construction Cost	Anticipated Capital Cost	Status/Notes
Program A – Shift groundwater production from Lower Aquifer to Upper Aquifer	Water Systems Interconnection	LOCSD/ GSWC	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
	Upper Aquifer Well (8 th Street)	LOCSD	NA	Fully Funded	NA	\$307,000	Completed
	South Bay Well Nitrate Removal	LOCSD	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
	Palisades Well Modifications	LOCSD	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
	Blending Project (Skyline Well)	GSWC	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
	Water Meters	S&T	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
Program B - Shift groundwater production from Lower Aquifer to Upper Aquifer	LOCSD Wells (Upper Aquifer)	LOCSD		Not Funded	TBD	BMP: \$2.7 mil	Project not initiated
	GSWC Wells (Upper Aquifer)	GSWC		Not Funded	TBD	BMP: \$3.2 mil	Project not initiated
	Community Nitrate Removal Facility	LOCSD/GSWC/S&T	TBD	Partial, GSWC portion funded	TBD	GSWC: \$1.23 mil	GSWC’s Program A Blending Project might be capable of expanding to be the first phase of the Program B Community Nitrate Removal Facility.
Program C - Shift production within the Lower Aquifer from the Western Area to the Central Area of the Basin	Expansion Well No. 1 (Los Olivos)	GSWC	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
	Expansion Well No. 2 (Lower Aquifer)	LOCSD		LOCSD	TBD	BMP: \$2.5 mil	The Bay Oaks well is completed and operational as of January 2026.
	Expansion Well 3 (Lower Aquifer) and LOVR Water Main Upgrade	GSWC/LOCSD		Cooperative Funding	TBD	BMP: \$1.6 mil	The deferral from Program C for this project was removed by the BMC on August 16th, 2023.
	LOVR Water Main Upgrade	GSWC		May be deferred	TBD	BMP: \$1.53 mil	Project may not be required, depending on the pumping capacity of the drilled Program C wells. It may be deferred to Program D.
	S&T/GSWC Interconnection	S&T/ GSWC		Pending	TBD	BMP: \$30,000	Currently on hold pending further evaluation of the project.
Program D - Shift production within the Lower Aquifer from the Western Area to the Eastern Area of the Basin							Currently being considered for deferment through Adaptative Management. BMC to review on an annual or semi-annual basis.
Program M – Groundwater Monitoring Plan	New Zone D/E lower aquifer monitoring well in Cuesta by the Sea	All Parties	NA	NA	NA	NA	Completed
Program U - Urban Water	Creek Discharge Program	All Parties				TBD	These activities are currently on hold. The Transient Model and Water Recycling Funding Study are intended to better inform the BMC on the most effective opportunities for increasing the sustainable yield of the Basin.

Program Name	Project Name	Parties Involved	BMC Budgeted Amount	Funding Status	Anticipated Planning/Pre-Construction Cost	Anticipated Capital Cost	Status/Notes
Reinvestment Program	8 th and El Moro Urban Storm Water Recovery Project	All Parties				TBD	These activities are currently on hold. The Transient Model and Water Recycling Funding Study are intended to better inform the BMC on the most effective opportunities for increasing the sustainable yield of the Basin.

TO: Los Osos Basin Management Committee

FROM: Dan Heimel, Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 9a – Broderson Leach Field Update

Recommendation

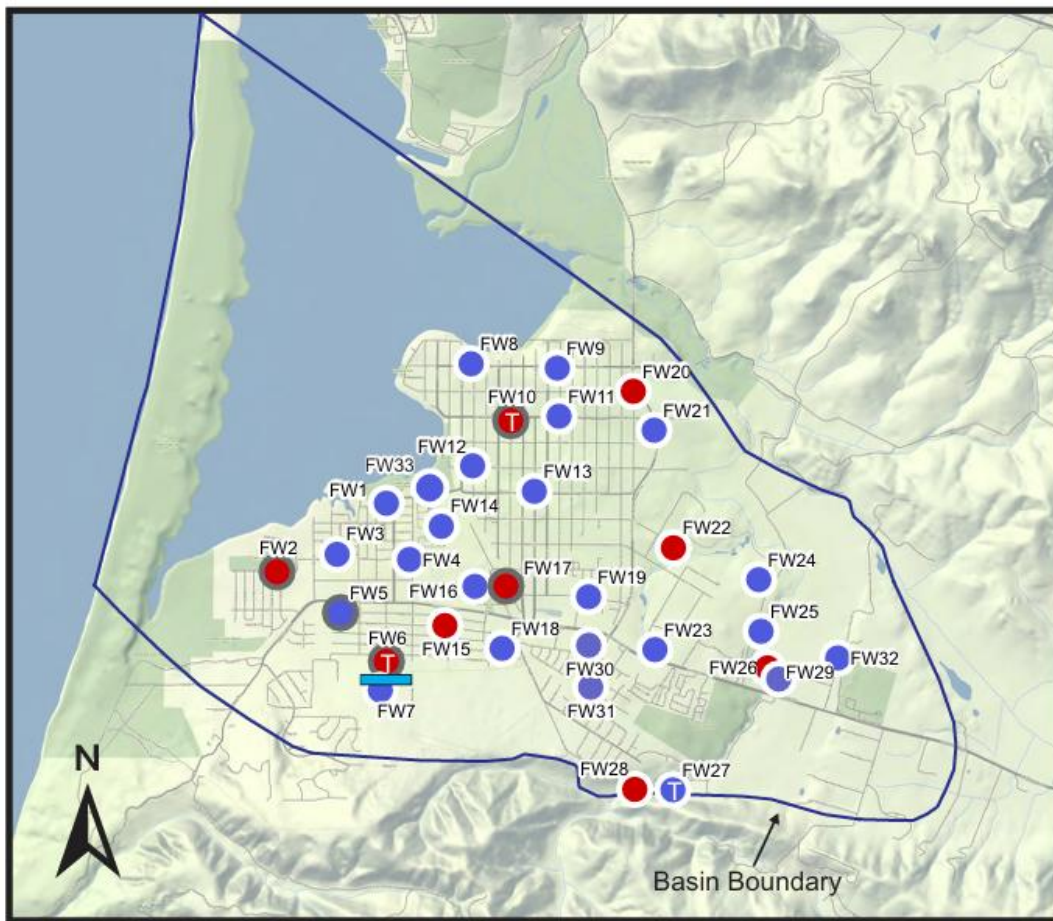
Receive and file information on the status of the Broderson Leach Field.

Introduction

Several questions regarding the effectiveness of the Broderson Leach Field (Broderson) have come up at recent BMC meetings and to help inform the BMC and the Public, BMC Staff prepared a summary of information already available from recent technical reports.

Broderson receives treated effluent deliveries from the Los Osos Water Recycling Facility. “Treated effluent is currently disposed to leach fields or delivered as recycled water for irrigation and agricultural reuse. There are two leach fields available for disposal: Broderson and Bayridge Estates. Broderson leach field has a permitted disposal capacity of 448 AFY per the Los Osos Wastewater Project Coastal Development Permit” (WRFP Study pg. 3-6).

The application of treated effluent at Broderson has caused a localized rise in groundwater level, credited to groundwater mounding on the regional aquitard beneath the Broderson Leach Field. This localized rise in groundwater level around Broderson is referred to as the Broderson Mound. This application of treated effluent to Broderson is intended to be beneficial to the Basin by helping prevent seawater intrusion, increasing basin Sustainable Yield and reducing nitrate concentrations. See location of the Broderson Leach Field in the map below (2025 AMR pg. 11).



Base Image: Stamen-Terrain

Explanation

- LOBP Water Level Monitoring Well
- Ⓣ Water Level Transducer
- Water Level and Water Quality Monitoring Well
- Ⓣ Water Level Transducer and Water Quality Monitoring Well
- Gray ring denotes nitrate metric well
- Broderson Leach Field

0 2000 4000 6000 8000 ft
Scale: 1 inch ≈ 4,000 feet

Discussion

Status of Development of the Broderson Mound

The 2025 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) (Attachment 1) summarizes the current status of the development of the Broderson Mound:

“Recycled water in 2025 was conveyed to the Broderson and Bayridge Estates leach fields, Agricultural users, Sea Pines Golf Course, Los Osos Middle School, Monarch Grove, Los Osos Community Park, and the median in Los Osos Valley Road between South Bay Blvd and Fairchild Way. The anticipated groundwater mound resulting from infiltration of treated wastewater disposal to leach fields at the

Broderson site was detected hydraulically downgradient beginning in June 2017. As of 2025, it is estimated that the Broderson mound is reaching stabilization” (2025 AMR pgs. 95-96).

“FW6 is screened in the Upper Aquifer near the Broderson leach field in the Western Area of the Basin. Starting in June 2017, water levels have shown a rise of approximately 25 feet through 2025 (Appendix I). The rise in water level is credited to groundwater mounding on the regional aquitard beneath the Broderson leach field. This mounding is expected to increase the downward hydraulic gradient and promote leakage through the regional aquitard, which will help to mitigate seawater intrusion in the Western Area. Beginning in mid-2022, the hydrograph at FW6 shows an undulating behavior in the water levels, which is interpreted to indicate that the Broderson groundwater mound is reaching stabilization” (2025 AMR pg. 55).

Water Supply Benefits of the Broderson Leach Field

In January 2023, Los Osos Community Services District (LOCSD) was awarded a Water Recycled Funding Program (WRFP) grant to develop a transient model and analyze recycled water and supplemental water projects to improve the sustainability of the Los Osos Basin. The WRFP Study (Attachment 2) evaluated the basin benefit provided by Broderson:

“Broderson 50% Scenario: Model results show that reducing Broderson discharges by 224 AF results in a 55 AF reduction in the sustainable yield, or a 25% ($55 / 224 = 25\%$) decrease in Basin benefit. This suggests that each AF discharged to Broderson provides about 0.25 AF Basin benefit, or roughly 25% Basin benefit” (WRFP Study pg. 5-5).

Water Quality Benefits of the Broderson Leach Field

Application of treated effluent can reduce local nitrate concentrations because the applied water contains lower nitrate levels than the existing groundwater. This water quality benefit has been observed in the monitoring wells near Broderson (FW6 and FW5), as described in the 2025 AMR:

“FW6 is hydraulically downgradient of the Broderson site, and NO₃ N declines are largely attributable to recycled water discharges at Broderson. In 2025, another well hydraulically downgradient of the Broderson site (FW5; not a metric well) continues to show decline in nitrate concentrations, from 8.2 mg/L NO₃-N in 2024 to 5.6 mg/L in 2025” (2025 AMR pg. 79).

Alternative Beneficial Uses of Recycled Water

The WRFP Study describes alternative uses for the treated effluent currently delivered to Broderson. These alternatives are evaluated by diverting a portion of deliveries to Broderson to alternative projects instead. Many of these uses are estimated to be more beneficial to the Basin than utilizing the water at Broderson but are cost prohibitive. See excerpts below from the pages 5-5 to 5-7 in the WRFP Study:

“A representative subset of supply alternatives, covering a range of different supply types, was evaluated with the Transient Model to estimate their benefit to enhancing sustainable groundwater production from the Basin. The results of the Transient Model scenarios compare the alternative’s supply yield to the change in total purveyor pumping from the Study Baseline to characterize the alternative’s benefit to the Basin. The model evaluates an alternative’s impact on the Basin’s sustainable

yield, considering the new water supply generated by a project, its use, and any reduction in effluent discharged to Broderson Leach Field. To isolate benefits to the Basin from an alternative's supply, wastewater flows above flows in the baseline scenario were assumed to be diverted to new agricultural spray fields for disposal.

The seven alternative water supply strategy scenarios modeled as part of the WRFP Study are listed below:

- **Current Conditions Baseline:** Represents current groundwater production based on average pumping from 2019 to 2023, which is 1,830 AFY of groundwater pumping.
- **Baseline Sustainable Yield:** The scenario uses 2025 infrastructure and optimizes the pumping distribution between purveyor wells to maximize purveyor production while maintaining the seawater intrusion front west of the 2021 threshold lines. Based on the optimized distribution of pumping, a time-weighted-average Sustainable Yield of 2,000 AFY over the 50-year planning horizon.
- **Broderson 50% Scenario:** Simulates diverting half (224 AFY) of effluent that is discharged to the Broderson Leach Fields in the Baseline Scenario and diverting to agricultural irrigation for disposal with no groundwater pumping offset. This scenario was used to evaluate the Basin impact of reducing discharges to the Broderson Leach Field.
- **Creek Discharge Scenario:** Maximizes discharges to Los Osos Creek under Alternative C1 (160 AFY) by diverting a similar amount from Broderson Leach Fields.
- **Upper Aquifer Pumping Scenario:** Simulates Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment alternative with increased groundwater pumping from the upper aquifer.
- **Seawater Barrier Scenario:** Simulates Seawater Barrier scenario of injection of 340 AFY of advanced purified water into the lower aquifer of the Los Osos Basin by diverting 425 AFY of effluent from Broderson Leach Fields.
- **Intertie Scenario:** Simulates Water Resiliency Intertie Pipeline alternative, which imports 300 AFY of surface water, on average, to purveyors.

Table 5-4. Transient Model Scenario Results

		Baseline Current Condition	Baseline Sustainable Yield	Brodereson 50%	Creek Discharge	Upper Aquifer Pumping	Seawater Barrier	Intertie
Alternative Yield	Leach Fields & Reuse	528	637	575	702	853	829	797
	New Spray Fields (No Offset)	--	70	227	3	281	3	230
	Project Yield	N/A	--	-224	160	475	340	300
Purveyor Pumping	Lower West/Central	718	703	576	684	614	995	703
	Upper West/Central	298	502	524	481	997	570	502
	Creek Valley	--	0	0	160	0	0	0
	Total Purveyor Pumping	1,016	1,204	1,150	1,325	1,610	1,565	1,204
Basin Benefit	Basin Benefit (Change in Purveyor Pumping)	N/A	--	(54)	120	400	360	300
	% Basin Benefit vs. Project Yield	N/A	--	24%	75%	84%	106%	100%

Basin benefits from the five model scenarios for comparison with the Baseline Sustainable Yield scenarios are summarized in Table 5-4 and include:

- Brodereson 50% Scenario:** Model results show that reducing Brodereson discharges by 224 AF results in a 55 AF reduction in the sustainable yield, or a 25% ($55 / 224 = 25\%$) decrease in Basin benefit. This suggests that each AF discharged to Brodereson provides about 0.25 AF Basin benefit, or roughly 25% Basin benefit. Accordingly, new alternatives that divert treated effluent from Brodereson to directly offset lower aquifer pumping would achieve an approximately 75% Basin benefit.
- Creek Discharge Scenario:** Model results show a 75% ($120 / 160 = 75\%$) Basin benefit. The benefits are less than 100% due to losses in the creek during basin recharge, impacts to lower aquifer pumping with increased production in the Creek Valley, and reduced effluent disposal to the Brodereson Leach Field.
- Upper Aquifer Pumping Scenario:** Model results show a 84% ($400 / 475 = 84\%$) Basin benefit. The benefits are less than 100% due to impacts to reduction in sustainable production from the lower aquifer as a result of increased upper aquifer pumping.

- **Seawater Barrier Scenario:** Model results show a 106% ($360 / 340 = 106\%$) Basin benefit. The benefits are greater than 100% because the barrier helps retain some streamflow and inflow from the Upper Aquifer that would normally flow out of the Basin.
- **Intertie Scenario:** This alternative provides a 100% Basin benefit because new water is imported to the Basin and does not impact discharges to Broderson Leach Field.”

Table 5-5. Basin Benefit Factors

Project Type	Alternative	Basin Benefit as a Percentage of Supply Yield
Offset Groundwater Pumping in the Central/Western Area	A1, E	75%
Offset Groundwater Pumping in the Creek Valley	A2, B	75%
Creek Discharge and Recovery	C1, C2, C3, C4	75%
Seawater Intrusion Barrier	D	106%
Upper Aquifer Pumping	F	84%
Imported Supply to the Basin	G	100%

Table 5-22 from the WRF Study pg. 5-42 provides a cost comparison of the alternative uses for recycled water:

Table 5-22. Alternatives Comparison

Alternative		Project Water Use (AFY)	Basin Benefit (AFY) ¹	Unit Cost (\$/AF) ²	Findings/ Recommendations
A1	Urban Reuse – Two Schools	12	9	\$6,100	High costs for recycled water conversion. Site specific cost estimates for the conversion are needed.
A2	Urban Reuse – Memorial Park	50	38	\$6,700	
B	Ag Reuse + Recovery	12	9	\$31,100	High cost to recover water in Creek Valley. Alternatives may be viable for backup disposal for the LOWRF.
C	Creek Discharge				
C1	No GRRP, Recovery	160	120	\$5,800	
C2	GRRP, No Treatment + Recovery	100	75	\$7,300	High unit cost to recover water in the Creek Valley. GRRP projects have extensive permitting efforts. Complex operation of treatment facilities for half the year.
C3	GRRP, Ozone/ BAC Treatment + Recovery	150	113	\$9,400	
C4	GRRP, MF/RO Treatment + Recovery	130	98	\$32,500	
D	Seawater Barrier	340	360	\$12,100	High unit costs and extensive permitting. This alternative prevents seawater intrusion and provides higher yields than the water injected.
E	Direct Potable Reuse	340	255	\$18,100	High unit costs and extensive permitting.
F	Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment	475	400	\$2,100	Costs may increase depending on the cost to buy into existing infrastructure and if other contaminants must be treated. Also, there are potential institutional barriers.
G1	Water Resiliency Intertie Pipeline	300	300	\$2,600 - \$2,900	Uncertainty around SWP purchase and conveyance costs.

1. Basin benefit is estimated from scenarios evaluated in the Transient Model. See Section 5.1.3 for more information.
2. Unit costs are the annual costs (\$/yr) divided by Basin benefit (AFY).

Recommendations of the WRF Study

The WRF Study evaluated alternative uses of treated effluent and other water supply projects that could benefit the Basin. Some alternatives involved diverting recycled water from the Broderson Leach Field, while others, such as the Water Resiliency Intertie, would provide additional basin benefits without changing the current use of recycled water at Broderson. The WRF Study recommended two top projects: the Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment and the Water Resiliency Intertie Pipeline, neither of which involve diverting treated effluent deliveries from the Broderson Leach Field.

Although not identified as a top recommendation, the WRF Study recommends conducting site-specific cost analyses for recycled water use at two schools. These projects could be considered if the analyses demonstrate feasibility and funding is available. The Study also recommends investigating opportunities for treated effluent disposal at Los Osos Valley Memorial Park and agricultural sites if future additional discharge capacity is needed. These options were not recommended as top alternatives because of their relatively high costs.

The other alternatives studied, such as Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) for creek discharge or injection for a seawater barrier and Direct Potable Reuse (DPR), were not recommended because of high costs (see table 5-22 above). In addition to high costs, there are permitting and operational challenges associated with an IPR or DPR project. Challenges associated with agricultural reuse include potential unwillingness of ag users to utilize recycled water over groundwater. See excerpts from the WRF Study below describing the challenges associated with each project:

IPR

“The high unit costs for GRRP alternatives with new treatment are compounded by the operational complexity of running the treatment facilities only six months each year” (WRF Study pg. 5-27).

“The largest risk or uncertainty for this alternative [IPR Creek Discharge] is permitting uncertainty as a new point of discharge or a GRRP. GRRP permitting classification would trigger stricter regulatory standards that reduce the volume of water that can be recharged or require additional treatment. There is also a large risk with the seasonal operation of additional treatment facilities during a six-month discharge period and significant uncertainty of RO concentrate disposal with the addition of MF/RO treatment facilities” (WRF Study pg. 5-28).

“There are many risks and uncertainties with this alternative [IPR seawater barrier]. This includes regulatory and permitting risks for the project (like the feasibility of RO concentrate disposal and the advanced purified water regulatory approval). Additionally, there are technical uncertainties with the injection well siting and monitoring requirements” (WRF Study pg. 5-31).

DPR

“High treatment costs result in high unit costs per AF of new supply” (WRF Study pg. 5-33).

“DPR is an emerging supply for California without any existing permitted or operating projects. This presents the largest risk for this alternative, and implementation would entail significant uncertainties and substantial effort” (WRFP Study pg. 5-33).

Agriculture Reuse

“The cost per AF of yield is high due to low recycled water demand and the need for a new well and pipeline to deliver offset groundwater to the purveyors” (WRFP Study pg. 5-16).

“The largest risk or uncertainty for this alternative is the willingness of agricultural customers to use recycled water, since they currently have the ability to pump more groundwater now” (WRFP Study pg. 5-18).

Summary

The Broderson Leach Field continues to provide measurable benefits to the Los Osos Basin. Application of treated effluent at this site has increased the surrounding groundwater levels, creating the Mound, which is now approaching stabilization. The mound is expected to help mitigate seawater intrusion by promoting downward groundwater movement through the regional aquitard. Discharges at Broderson benefit the Basin’s Sustainable Yield, providing an estimated 0.25 acre-foot of basin benefit for each acre-foot applied, and have contributed to declining nitrate concentrations in nearby monitoring wells.

The WRFP Study identified several projects that could provide greater basin benefits than disposal at Broderson, but many have high costs and significant permitting, operational, or implementation challenges. The WRFP Study’s two top recommendations, the Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment Project and Water Resiliency Intertie Pipeline, would provide additional basin benefits without reducing treated effluent deliveries to Broderson. Broderson remains the most feasible option for treated effluent disposal.

Attachments:

1. [2025 Annual Monitoring Report for the Los Osos Basin](#)
2. [Final Los Osos Water Recycling Funding Program \(WRFP\) Facilities Planning Study](#)

TO: Los Osos Basin Management Committee

FROM: Dan Heimel, Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 9b – Geophysics Investigation Update

Recommendation

Receive the update on the status of the geophysics investigation.

Background

This Project consists of completing an ERT survey and analysis/interpretation of all available geophysics survey data (including Department of Water Resources AEM survey and the Cal Poly ERT survey). Cleath-Harris Geologists (CHG) was retained for hydrogeologic support services complete the survey and to analyze and interpret data. CHG is leading this initiative with assistance from Cal Poly Staff and students for the field surveying.

At the [December 3, 2024 BMC Meeting](#), the Board approved a budget of \$0 for the Los Osos Basin Geophysics Interpretation with the approval of the CY 2025 budget. The BMC was able to budget \$0 for this project, because it is funded by a Morro Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) grant. \$50k in grant funds were allocated to this project. The grant deadline is December 31, 2026.

At the [November 12, 2025 Special BMC Meeting](#), the Board adopted the CY 2026 BMC Budget. This budget included \$15,000 for Item 10: Los Osos Geophysics Interpretation, specifically for the anticipated HCP credits fees for this project. At the time of adopting this budget, it was unclear if HCP credits would be required for this project. The County has since determined that HCP credits **will not** be required for this project. There may be a future opportunity for the BMC to replenish the reserve fund utilizing the \$13,357 remaining budget allocated for geophysics HCP credits. BMC Staff may alternatively recommend utilizing these funds for other aspects of the geophysics project, although additional funds are not anticipated to be needed for this project at this time.

Discussion

The ERT survey was conducted in Los Osos by CHG with assistance from Cal Poly staff and students on May 16, 2026. Survey Line 1 was completed.



The ERT survey did not produce usable results because the dry, sandy soil at the Los Osos site prevented adequate electrical contact with the ground. This resulted in poor-quality data that could not be reliably used to evaluate subsurface conditions. The attached memorandum includes a summary of the results and survey images.

Proposed TEM Survey

A suitable alternative to the ERT method is the TEM (Transient Electromagnetic) method. Unlike ERT, TEM does not require direct conductive coupling with the ground surface, making it better suited for resistive near surface materials such as the unsaturated dune sand encountered at the survey area. TEM works by transmitting a controlled electrical current through a surface loop of wire.

For the proposed survey, a TEM system can be rented from a geophysical instruments supplier in Texas. The expected depth of investigation depends on the overall resistivity and conductivity of the subsurface, but under favorable conditions can reach up to 300 meters (980 feet depth).

The proposed TEM transect will generally follow the alignment of the previous ERT survey line and will follow the original survey objectives while improving the likelihood of collecting interpretable data. Similar to ERT, the TEM method is sensitive to changes in electrical conductivity associated with groundwater salinity. Therefore, TEM is well suited for mapping the extent of seawater intrusion within the study area and is the best geophysical alternative to ERT.

No additional budget is anticipated to be needed to perform the TEM survey. The Alternative Plan (attached) and updated Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been submitted to the NEP, who submitted it to the Environmental Review Agency (EPA) for their review on August 25, 2026. The EPA has not provided comment to date, but we are anticipating receiving comments within 30 days of submittal.

Attachments

1. Electrical Resistivity Tomography Survey Results Summary and Alternative Plan for a Transient Electromagnetic Survey, Los Osos, California (dated August 17, 2026)



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 17, 2026

From: Spencer Harris, HG 633

To: Dan Heimel, BMC Executive Director
Ron Munds, Assistant General Manager, Los Osos CSD

SUBJECT: Electrical Resistivity Tomography Survey Results Summary and Alternative Plan for a Transient Electromagnetic Survey, Los Osos, California

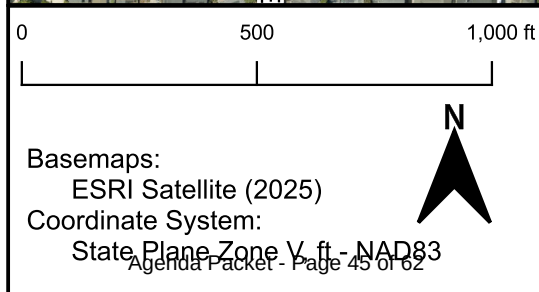
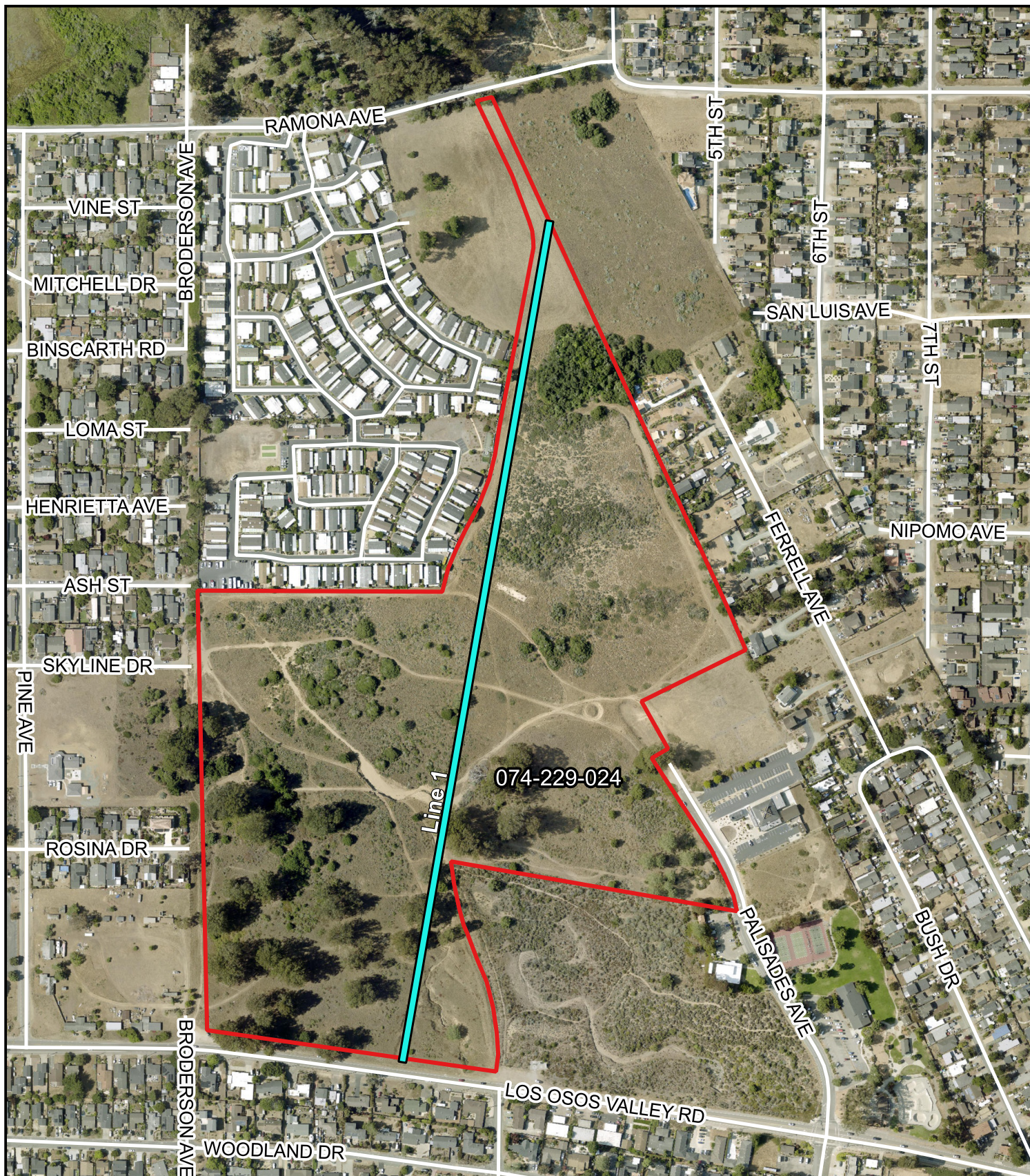
Cleath-Harris Geologists was retained by the Los Osos Community Services District (District) with funding through the Morro Bay National Estuary Program to perform Geophysical Survey Work on parcel number APN 074-229-024 (Site), to evaluate seawater intrusion into the Los Osos Basin. This memorandum summarizes the results of the electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) survey and proposes an alternative transient electromagnetic (TEM) survey plan.

ERT Survey Results Summary

The ERT survey was conducted in Los Osos on May 16, 2026. In coordination with staff and students from Cal Poly, survey Line 1, as identified in the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), was completed. The processed data produced results that were largely unusable due to site-specific limitations of the ERT method and the underlying lithology. The shallow subsurface is composed primarily of semi-compacted, unsaturated dune sand, which proved naturally resistive and provided poor electrical coupling between the electrodes and the ground. As a result, high contact resistances were measured throughout the survey. These high contact resistances reduced the efficiency of electrical current propagation in the subsurface, ultimately producing limited resolution and poor-quality data for interpretation of the subsurface conditions along the survey line. CHG had performed a similar ERT surveying in dune sands in Morro Bay that did not present the high contact resistances observed at the Los Osos projects site. The survey results summary and processing images are attached.

Proposed TEM Survey

A suitable alternative to the ERT method is the TEM method. Unlike ERT, TEM does not require direct conductive coupling with the ground surface, making it better suited for resistive near surface materials such as the unsaturated dune sand encountered at the survey area. TEM works by transmitting a controlled electrical current through a surface loop of wire. When the current is turned off, the collapsing primary electromagnetic field induces eddy currents in the subsurface.



- Explanation
- Geophysical Survey Lines
 - Approximate Parcel Boundary
 - Roads

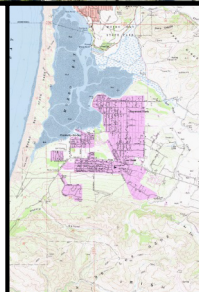


Figure 1

Geophysical ERT Line
Locations 1 and 2
Los Osos Geophysics

CLATH HARRIS GEOLOGISTS



These currents decay over time, and the rate of decay is measured by a receiver loop. The decay response is influenced by the electrical conductivity of subsurface materials, and is effective in identifying changes in lithology, and groundwater conditions.

For the proposed survey, a TEM system can be rented from a geophysical instruments supplier in Texas. The anticipated system configuration consists of a 40-meter by 40-meter square transmitter loop surrounding a 3-meter by 3-meter receiver loop. Each measurement represents a one-dimensional sounding centered within the receiver loop. Multiple soundings collected along a transect can then be processed into a pseudo-section. A typical production rate for this system is approximately up to 20 stations per day. The expected depth of investigation depends on the overall resistivity and conductivity of the subsurface, but under favorable conditions can reach up to 300 meters (980 feet depth).

The proposed TEM transect will generally follow the alignment of the previous ERT survey line and will follow the original survey objectives while improving the likelihood of collecting interpretable data. TEM is sensitive to anthropogenic variables such as power and telephone poles, so placement of transmitter loops must be at least 40 meters to 80 meters away from these features. Similar to ERT, the TEM method is sensitive to changes in electrical conductivity associated with groundwater salinity. Therefore, TEM is well suited for mapping the extent of seawater intrusion within the study area and is the best geophysical alternative to ERT.

Next Steps

No additional budget will be needed to perform the TEM survey. If this alternative geophysical survey plan is acceptable to the Los Osos BMC and CSD, we will need to obtain approval from the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and potentially update the QAPP document. Permission from the property owner for a second survey will also need to be confirmed.



ERT Results Summary

Prepared by Dr. John J. Jasbinsek

Department of Physics – Geology & Geophysics

Bailey College of Science and Mathematics

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo



To: Cleath-Harris Geologists

From: John Jasbinsek, Physics Department, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Re: Electrical Resistivity survey of May 15th, 2026, in Los Osos

Summary

The electrical resistivity survey “LONG2” completed on May 15th, 2026, was unable to capture a dataset of sufficient quality to assess seawater intrusion at approximately 150 meters depth. I attribute this to the nature of the geologic material at the near surface which consists of loose unconsolidated sand (“sand”). This material causes two problems with the way electrical resistivity (ER) surveys are collected:

1. The electrical connection of the electrodes to the sand is not reliable, i.e. the “contact resistance” is too high.
2. The pervasive sand medium between the electrode pairs, and the sand depth, does not permit sufficient current flow between the electrode pairs. As a result, measurement of voltage between other electrode pairs is unreliable.

An attempt to mitigate (1) was performed by lining the holes dug into the sand the electrodes were installed into with aluminum foil and a clay slurry. However, given the extent of the sand, this measure did not effectively reduce contact resistance; many preliminary readings of contact resistance prior to the data collected were between 20,000 – 40,000 Ohms.

With respect to point (2), the continuous extent of the poorly electrically conducting sand dunes across the electrical resistivity profile, in combination with their thickness above the aquifer target material, did not make a reliable electrical circuit. Readings of current were in the micro- to nano-amp range, with the resulting voltage measurements in the micro- to nano-volts ranges. The equipment had to take repeated readings to attempt a stable reading of the values, and this generally failed. The resulting estimates of apparent resistivity (which are proportional to the measured ratio of voltage to current) across the geophysical profile were both imprecise and contain large error bars. This data set then leads to an inversion result¹ in the processing software (EarthImager) which has no geologic meaning.

Data Processing Notes

The following sections contain selected images from the data processing steps illustrating how the collected data fails to meaningfully capture the geologic structure of the subsurface.

¹ In other words, the inversion algorithm simply made computations on geologically meaningless numbers.

Initial Data Quality Control

The initial read of the data (Figure 1) into EarthImager flags over 50% of the data as unsuitable because of the very small values of the current and voltage discussed above. In addition, spikes in the data reflect the unstable nature of the electrical connections at different electrode pairs across the array.

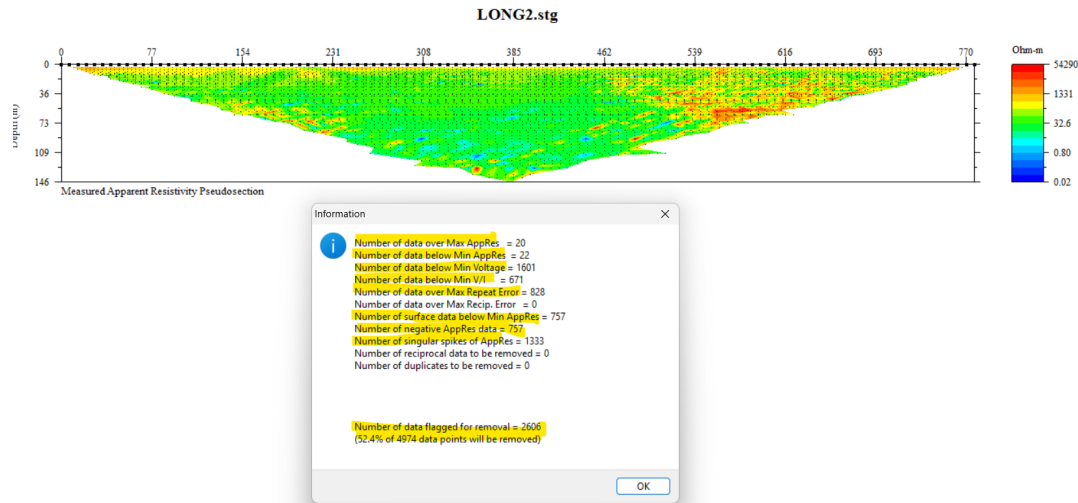


Figure 1. Initial read of data into EarthImager inversion software. Over 50% of data is rejected due to low values of current and voltage.

Inversion Attempt

Figure 2 displays the apparent resistivity field data, the attempted inversion for a subsurface electrical resistivity model, and the resulting *predicted* apparent resistivity data from the inverted model. The unstable nature of the field data generates an electrical resistivity model that is not geologically realistic.

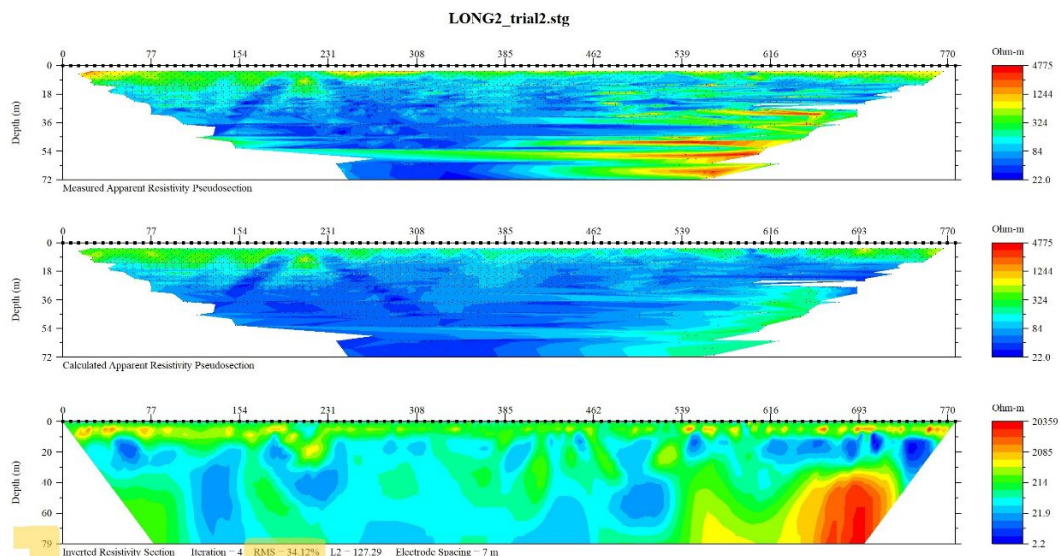


Figure 2. Attempted inversion of the field data. Top: apparent resistivity field data; Bottom: Inversion of field data to an estimated subsurface resistivity structure; Middle: Predicted apparent resistivity field data based on the inverted model of the bottom panel.

Comparison of divergence between the top and middle panel (Figure 2) indicates that the inverted model does capture the field data. The reasons for this include:

1. The apparent resistivity data values are poorly constrained and do not vary smoothly as expected in the electrical resistivity data.
2. Greater than 50% of the data is initially rejected, making the set of data points used in the inversion too small.
3. Oscillatory nature of the field data (Figure 2, top panel) is difficult to fit with inversion algorithms. **Further**, the oscillatory nature of the field data is *unlikely to represent real geologic signal, and thus the inversion is geologically meaningless*.

While it is possible to remove the most poorly fit data and run the inversion algorithm again, the total amount of data initially removed is already too much for a reliable inversion. Further data processing on fewer data will only result in an even more geologically meaningless inversion.

Had the sand dunes been thinner and less dry, it may have been possible to get adequate signal; therefore, the electrical resistivity survey and field experiment was worth attempting. However, given the failure of this methodology, further geophysical exploration with the parameter of electrical resistivity may be successful using *time-domain electromagnetic* (TDEM) imaging.

In the TDEM method the same parameter of electrical resistivity is collected but the methodology does not require electrical coupling to the near-surface geologic material. The tradeoff is that only one-dimensional (vertical) data is collected. A pseudo-profile can be collected by making repeated measurements where the zone of influence overlaps. This is commonly done in near-surface geophysical literature, but the resulting images are of lower resolution than those obtained by the survey style discussed above. However, the resolution of the TDEM method may still be sufficient for the nature of the saltwater intrusion target in the aquifer.

John Jasbinsek



TO: Los Osos Basin Management Committee

FROM: Dan Heimerl, Executive Director

DATE: September 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Item 9c – Draft Los Osos Basin Management Committee 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter

Recommendation

Receive information on potential growth rates and select a growth rate recommendation to include in the Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter to the County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director. Direct Staff to finalize the letter with the selected growth rate recommendation and authorize the BMC Chair to approve the final letter and submit it to the County or provide alternate direction to Staff.

Discussion

[The Los Osos Community Plan \(Community Plan\)](#) is a planning document adopted by the County of San Luis Obispo (County) and the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) in December 2024 to guide land use, development, infrastructure, and environmental mitigation in the Los Osos area. The Plan's development policies are implemented through the County's Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) annual dwelling unit growth rate caps. The GMO was established by the County to regulate development in unincorporated areas to ensure that growth aligns with the capacity of local resources. In the Los Osos Urban Reserve Line (URL) the GMO includes a framework that ties the growth rate to the BMC's Sustainable Yield (SY) estimate and Basin Yield Metric (BYM).

The approval of the Community Plan by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Coastal Commission lifted a moratorium on new development within the Prohibition Zone of the Los Osos URL. Updates to the GMO that were adopted along with the Community plan included establishing a growth rate of 0.4% for Calendar Year (CY) 2025 for the Los Osos URL. Additionally, the GMO states the annual maximum allocation of dwelling units within the Los Osos Urban Reserve, established by the growth rate, "shall include consideration of recommendations from the Los Osos Basin Management Committee and the groundwater sustainability director's review of such recommendations." As part of this process, the County requests that the BMC provide annual input, in the form of a letter to the County Director of Groundwater Sustainability, on the growth rate before it is brought to the BOS for adoption in December of each year. This input is then considered by the County Director of Groundwater Sustainability in preparing a recommendation to the County Department of Planning & Building (County Planning & Building) for a recommendation to the BOS for the growth rate for the Los Osos URL for the upcoming year.

In early 2025, County Planning & Building sent out letters to a portion of the property owners on the Los Osos Waitlist to Build notifying them of the potential opportunity to build. In September 2025, County

Planning & Building sent out follow-up letters to property owners included in the earlier solicitation indicating that due to challenges associated with obtaining credits within the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan the deadline for submitting construction permit applications had been extended to a future, undetermined date.

In October 2025, the BMC provided a letter recommending a growth rate of 0% for CY 2026. This letter also included the following statement within the recommendation: “notwithstanding the foregoing, this recommendation should not be construed as a recommendation with respect to the appropriateness of issuing permits, in accordance with the provisions of the County’s Title 26 (Growth Management Ordinance) and Title 19 (Retrofit to Build) Code of Regulations, to property owners that were provided notice regarding allocations for new development in CY 2025.” In December 2025, the County adopted a growth rate of 0.4% for CY 2026. A growth rate of 0.4% corresponds to a maximum allocation of 25 dwelling units. See table below for an estimate of how many dwelling units corresponds to each growth rate:

Annual Growth Rate	Estimated Maximum Number of Dwelling Units
1.0%	63
0.8%	50
0.6%	38
0.4%	25
0.2%	13
0.0%	0

The County Director of Groundwater Sustainability’s and County Planning & Building’s recommendation on the growth rate for 2027 for the Los Osos URL will be brought to the County BOS for their consideration at their December 8, 2026 BOS Meeting. BMC Staff prepared the attached draft letter to the County’s Groundwater Sustainability Director to provide a recommendation for the County BOS’s consideration of the Growth Rate for the Los Osos URL for CY 2027. **The draft letter attached does not include the BMC’s recommendation on growth rate but will be updated to reflect the growth rate recommendation selected by the BMC in this meeting. See information on potential growth rate recommendation alternatives below:**

Growth Rate Recommendation Alternatives

BMC Staff prepared the following growth rate recommendation alternatives for BMC review and consideration:

Growth Rate of 0%

The BMC recommended a growth rate of 0% for CY 2026 due to observed conditions in the 2025 AMR, the reduced Sustainable Yield estimate predicted utilizing the newly developed Transient Model, uncertainty regarding transient model results, and the uncertainty of impacts from the growth rate approved for 2025 but not yet implemented. Since there has been limited change in conditions or basin

hydrogeologic understanding, the BMC could choose to recommend a 0% growth rate again. A 0% growth rate corresponds to a maximum allocation of 0 dwelling units.

Growth Rate of 0.2%

The GMO prescribes specific growth rates for CY 2025, CY 2026, and CY 2027: 0.4%, 0.6%, and 0.8%, respectively. For years beyond CY 2027, the GMO ties the annual growth rate for the Los Osos URL to the 5-year rolling average of the Basin Yield Metric, as shown below.

5-Year Rolling Average of Annual Basin Yield Metric	Annual Growth Rate
≤80%	1.0%
>80% to 81%	0.8%
>81% to 82%	0.6%
>82% to 83%	0.4%
>83% to 84%	0.2%
>84%	0.0%

The 5-year rolling-average methodology was established when the GMO was adopted in 2024. At that time, the Sustainable Yield had remained constant for several years, and the subsequent reduction in Sustainable Yield for CY 2026 and CY 2027 was not anticipated. As a result, the current five-year rolling average incorporates earlier Basin Yield Metrics calculated using higher Sustainable Yield estimates and may not reflect current Basin conditions.

To account for this recent lowering in SY, BMC Staff calculated a growth rate using the GMO framework based on the most recent applicable Sustainable Yield and a single year of estimated extraction. This calculation differs from the methodology prescribed by the GMO for two reasons: 1) GMO specifies a growth rate of 0.8% for CY 2027 rather than utilizing the Basin Yield Metric, 2) for years in which the Basin Yield Metric is used to establish the growth rate, the GMO relies on a 5-year rolling average, whereas this calculation uses a single year of data.

A Basin Yield Metric for CY 2027 could be calculated utilizing the adopted CY 2027 SY of 2,000 Acre-Feet Per Year (AFY) and an estimated extraction for CY 2025 of 1,680 AFY, which is the most current annual extraction amount for the basin available at this point in time:

$$\frac{1,680 \text{ AFY}}{2,000 \text{ AFY}} \times 100 = 84\%$$

A Basin Yield Metric of 84% corresponds to an annual growth rate of 0.2% under the GMO framework table shown above. While this calculation does not follow the GMO methodology exactly, it uses the same relationship between the Basin Yield Metric and growth rate and reflects more recent Basin conditions.

The BMC could choose to recommend a growth rate of 0.2% for CY 2027. A 0.2% growth rate corresponds to a maximum allocation of 13 dwelling units.

Growth Rate of 0.4%

The County adopted a CY 2026 growth rate of 0.4% for the Los Osos URL instead of the 0.6% rate as outlined in the GMO. The BMC could choose to recommend maintaining the growth rate at 0.4% for CY 2027, consistent with the rate adopted by the County for CY 2026. A 0.4% growth rate corresponds to a maximum allocation of 25 dwelling units.

Growth Rate of 0.6%

The GMO prescribes specific growth rates for CY 2025, CY 2026, and CY 2027: 0.4%, 0.6%, and 0.8%, respectively. The County adopted a growth rate of 0.4% for CY 2025, however, no growth occurred due to Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) credit limitations. For CY 2026, the County maintained the growth rate at 0.4%. For CY 2027, the BMC could choose to recommend increasing the growth rate by one increment, to 0.6%, rather than increasing it to 0.8% as prescribed by the GMO. A 0.6% growth rate corresponds to a maximum allocation of 38 dwelling units.

Growth Rate of 0.8%

The GMO prescribes a specific growth rate of 0.8% for CY 2027. The BMC could choose to recommend a growth rate of 0.8% for CY 2027. A 0.8% growth rate corresponds to a maximum allocation of 50 dwelling units.

Conclusion

Of the alternatives above, BMC Staff recommends that the BMC not recommend a growth rate above 0.2% for CY 2027. A Basin Yield Metric of 84% for CY 2027, calculated using the adopted CY 2027 Sustainable Yield and the CY 2025 production estimate, corresponds to a 0.2% growth rate under the GMO framework.

Additionally, BMC Staff recommends the BMC select a growth rate recommendation to include in the Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter to the County of San Luis Obispo Groundwater Sustainability Director. Direct Staff to finalize the letter with the selected growth rate recommendation and authorize the BMC Chair to approve the final letter and submit it to the County or provide alternate direction to Staff.

Attachments

1. [Draft Los Osos Basin Management Committee 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation Letter](#)

TO: Blaine Reely, Director of Groundwater Sustainability, County of San Luis Obispo

FROM: Los Osos Basin Management Committee

DATE: September 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Los Osos Basin Management Committee 2027 Growth Rate Recommendation

[Include summary of BMC action on this item at the [September 16, 2026 BMC Meeting](#)]

Executive Summary/Recommendation

The San Luis Obispo County (County) Board of Supervisors (BOS) will vote on a Calendar Year (CY) 2027 Growth Rate for the Los Osos Urban Reserve Line (Los Osos URL) in December 2026. The County's Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) (Attachment 1) prescribes a Growth Rate of 0.8% for CY 2027, but this may be adjusted by the BOS as needed. The BMC recommends the County BOS adopt a CY 2027 growth rate of --% based on [update based on Board action]

Introduction

The Los Osos Basin Management Committee (BMC) prepared the following letter to the County of San Luis Obispo's (County) Groundwater Sustainability Director to provide its recommendations for the County Board of Supervisor's (County BOS) consideration of the Growth Rate for within the Los Osos Urban Reserve Line (Los Osos URL) for Calendar Year (CY) 2027 as outlined in the County's Title 26 Growth Management Ordinance (GMO).

Background

The Los Osos Groundwater Basin (Basin) is the sole drinking water source for the community of Los Osos. Rapid development in the 1970-80's led to rapid increases in water demand and unsustainable levels of groundwater pumping in the Basin. This resulted in seawater intrusion in the lower aquifer, estimated to have intruded at rates exceeding 500 feet/year. Additionally, decades of high-density septic tank discharges contaminated the upper aquifer with nitrate concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), making it unsafe to drink.

These conditions prompted several actions including: the California Department of Water Resources declaring the Basin to be in critical conditions of overdraft, a Basin adjudication, formation of the BMC, and development of the 2015 Updated Basin Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin (Basin Plan) (Attachment 2) that outlines the strategy to bring the Basin back into sustainability. Through implementation of the Basin Plan and other measures, the BMC and the community of Los Osos have

made significant progress toward halting seawater intrusion, raising groundwater levels, and reducing nitrate contamination.

The Los Osos Community Plan (Community Plan) (Attachment 3) is a planning document adopted in 2024 by the County and the California Coastal Commission to guide land use, development, infrastructure, and environmental mitigation in the Los Osos area. It is part of the County's General Plan and Land Use Element, and it integrates with other regional plans such as the Estero Area Plan, the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan, and the GMO.

The Community Plan focuses on sustainable development within the constraints of limited water resources, sensitive environmental habitats, and infrastructure capacity in Los Osos. The Community Plan includes land use designations, development standards, infrastructure planning, environmental resource management, and community goals and policies. The Plan's development policies are implemented through the GMO's annual dwelling unit allocations and growth rate caps. The GMO was established by the County to regulate residential development in unincorporated areas, ensuring that growth aligns with the capacity of local resources and is tied to the BMC's Sustainable Yield estimate and Basin Yield Metric.

The GMO ordinance sets phased annual growth limits—starting at 0.4% in 2025, increasing to 0.8% by 2027 and adjusting based on a five-year rolling average of the Basin Yield Metric in 2028 and beyond.

The GMO specifies the proposed incremental growth rate for the Los Osos URL for 2025-2027 outlined below:

- 2025: 0.4%
- 2026: 0.6%
- 2027: 0.8%

The Stipulated Judgement prepared as a result of the Los Osos Basin adjudication requires that the BMC adopt a Sustainable Yield estimate on an annual basis. The Sustainable Yield estimate is utilized as part of the equation for calculating the Basin Yield Metric (estimated annual groundwater production/adopted Sustainable Yield estimated) and is used to assess progress toward achieving a production of 80% of the Sustainable Yield estimate and to determine the growth rate set each year under the GMO. As described in the GMO, the BMC annually assesses Basin conditions and provides the County Groundwater Sustainability Director with a recommendation letter each year for their consideration prior to the adoption of the growth rate for the upcoming year.

For 2028 and onward, the GMO identifies that the growth rate for the Los Osos URL is tied to the 5-year rolling average of the Basin Yield Metric, see framework below.

5-Year Rolling Average of Annual Basin Yield Metric	Annual Growth Rate
≤80%	1.0%
>80% to 81%	0.8%
>81% to 82%	0.6%
>82% to 83%	0.4%
>83% to 84%	0.2%
>84%	0.0%

Overview of Basin Conditions

The following section provides an overview of modeled predictions and observed conditions for the Los Osos Basin. The BMC utilizes this combination of groundwater modeling to predict potential future Basin conditions and groundwater monitoring to observe current conditions in its assessment of overall groundwater sustainability for the Basin.

CY 2026 & 2027 Sustainable Yield Estimate

In the Stipulated Judgement (SJ) and the Basin Plan, the BMC Parties agreed on a framework and methodology for estimating and updating the Sustainable Yield for the Los Osos Basin (Basin), referred to as Sustainable Yield_x, where “X” represents the Sustainable Yield estimate for that year. The SJ and Basin Plan require the BMC to annually evaluate, confirm and set the Sustainable Yield_x based on the best available data and evidence.

Section 6.3.2 (A) of the Basin Plan defines Sustainable Yield_x as:

Sustainable Yield_x equals the maximum amount of groundwater that may be extracted from the Basin in Year X without causing seawater to advance further inland and with no active well producing water with chloride concentrations above 250 mg/l...

The Sustainable Yield_x is determined for a given set of infrastructure in place by using the Model to determine the maximum amount of groundwater extractions that may occur with a stable seawater intrusion front, and no active well producing water with chloride concentrations above 250 mg/l.

The amount of water that can be extracted under these criteria has historically been determined using the Steady State Groundwater Model (Steady State Model) created for the Basin. In 2025, the BMC developed a new Transient Groundwater Model (Transient Model) for the Basin. The Transient Model is a tool that provides a calibrated, dynamic simulation of groundwater levels and seawater intrusion in the Basin and will be utilized by the BMC to assist in its management of this critical resource for the community of Los Osos. The Transient Model is an improvement upon the Steady State Model that the BMC utilized previously for developing Sustainable Yield estimates and predicting potential future conditions in the Basin. The Transient Model allows for prediction of impacts from variable hydrology

(i.e. extended droughts, above average rainfall periods, etc.) and incorporates new information on the structure (i.e. depth, layering, etc.) of the Basin that was not previously available.

The Transient Model was utilized to develop a Sustainable Yield estimate for Calendar Year 2026. The results of the Sustainable Yield 2026 Baseline Scenario indicate that a production scenario, which includes the assumption that the Current Condition pumping distribution (i.e. average distribution of pumping from 2019 – 2023) continues for 5 years before the purveyors (i.e. Los Osos Community Services District, Golden State Water Company, and S&T Mutual Water Company) transition to an optimized distribution of pumping, would allow for an average of 2,000 AFY of groundwater to be extracted from the Basin without exceeding the criteria established in the Adaptive Method for seawater intrusion over a 50-yr period (see Attachment 4 for more details on the 2026 SY Baseline Scenario). At the October 15, 2025 BMC meeting (see Attachment 5), the Board approved the Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,000 AFY for Calendar Year 2026. At the August 19, 2026 BMC Meeting, the Board approved the Sustainable Yield estimate of 2,000 for Calendar Year 2027 (See Attachment 6).

2025 Annual Monitoring Report

The data for the Basin provided below is from the 2025 Los Osos Basin Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and covers the reporting period from January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025. The 2025 AMR data is provided for use in guiding the BMC's recommendations regarding the 2027 GMO growth rate because the 2027 growth rate will be adopted prior to the completion of the 2026 reporting year. See the report in Attachment 7.

The BMC's hydrogeologist prepares an AMR for each calendar year which describes activities related to the Los Osos Basin Plan (LOBP) Groundwater Monitoring Program and provides results and interpretation of these activities for Calendar Year 2025. The LOBP Groundwater Monitoring Program is necessary to accomplish the following continuing goals set forth in Section 2.4 of the LOBP:

- 1. Provide for a continuously updated hydrologic assessment of the Los Osos Groundwater Basin (Basin), its water resources and Sustainable Yield.*
- 2. Create a water resource accounting which is able to meet the information needs for planning, monitoring, trading, environmental management, utility operations, land development and agricultural operations.*

Key data and findings from the 2025 AMR are summarized below.

Groundwater Production. Groundwater production for the Basin totaled an estimated 1,680 acre-feet in the 2025 calendar year, which is a 10 acre-feet decrease from 2024. Purveyor groundwater production increased by approximately 40 acre-feet, while production for community facilities decreased by an estimated 10 acre-feet in 2025, compared to 2024. Estimated production for agricultural irrigation decrease by 40 acre-feet, and private domestic production, which was recalculated based on a new study completed in 2023, remained constant at 110 acre-feet in 2025.

Groundwater Production		
Description	2024 Production (AF)	2025 Production (AF)
Los Osos Community Services District	491	494
Golden State Water Company	505	538
S&T Mutual Water Company	26	29
Purveyor Subtotal (metered)	1,022	1,061
Domestic Wells ¹	110	110
Community Facilities ¹	50	40
Agricultural Wells ¹	510	470
Total Estimated Production	1,690	1,680

¹Rounded to the nearest 10 acre-feet. Production from non-metered wells (Domestic, Community, Agricultural) estimated, see 2025 AMR (Attachment 7).

Basin Metrics. The Basin Plan established several Basin metrics to evaluate nitrate impacts to the Upper Aquifer, seawater intrusion into the Lower Aquifer, and the effect of BMC management efforts. These metrics allow the BMC, regulatory agencies, and the public to evaluate the status of nitrate levels and seawater intrusion, and the impact of implementation of the Basin Plan programs in the Basin through objective, numerical criteria that can be tracked over time. The status of key Basin metrics in Calendar Year 2025 is summarized below.

2025 LOBP Metric Summary			
Metric	LOBP Goal	Calculated Value from 2025 Data	Change in Condition from 2024
Basin Yield Metric	80 or less	71	No change from 71 (Steady)
Water Level Metric	8 feet above mean sea level or higher	3.5 feet above mean sea level	Decrease from 4.1 feet (deterioration)
Chloride Metric	100 mg/L or lower	230 mg/L	Decrease from 249 mg/L (improvement)
Nitrate Metric	10 mg/L or lower	12.9 mg/L (NO3-N)	Decrease from 15.7 mg/L (improvement)

Basin Yield Metric. The Basin Yield Metric (estimated annual groundwater production/adopted Sustainable Yield estimate) compares the estimated amount of groundwater extracted (1,680 AFY) with the adopted Sustainable Yield (2,380 AFY for 2025). The Basin Plan goal for the Basin Yield Metric is 80 or less. The Basin Yield Metric for 2025 was 71, however, if a lower Sustainable Yield estimate utilizing findings from the Transient Model was utilized in the 2025 Basin Yield Metric calculation, the value would be 84.

Water Level Metric. The Water Level Metric addresses changes in the Lower Aquifer related to seawater intrusion mitigation. The Water Level Metric is defined as the average Spring groundwater elevation, measured in feet above mean sea level, in five Lower Aquifer wells. The Water Level Metric decreased between 2024 and 2025 from 4.1 feet to 2.30 feet, which is a deterioration in conditions, and remains several feet below the target value of 8 feet.

Chloride Metric. The Chloride Metric addresses changes in the Lower Aquifer related to seawater intrusion mitigation. The Chloride Metric is defined as the weighted average concentration of chlorides in four key Lower Aquifer wells. The Chloride Metric decreased relative to the 100 mg/L target value between Fall 2024 (249 mg/L) and Fall 2025 (230 mg/L), indicating an improvement of conditions in 2025.

Seawater Intrusion Front. Seawater intrusion in Zone D has decreased between 2024 and 2025, although the intrusion front remains east of LA10 (similar to the position shown for 2021) and LA15 on Palisades Avenue near the boundary between the Western and Central Areas has reported a 47 percent increase in chloride concentrations over the last five years. Zone E seawater intrusion is pervasive in the Western Area. In the Central Area, Zone E seawater intrusion continues to advance inland of LA11.

Upper Aquifer Water Level Profile. Upper Aquifer water levels were above the Protective Elevation along the bay, except for near UA5. Chloride concentrations at UA5 have increased over time but remain low and are being closely monitored.

Overview of Los Osos Basin Initiatives

To support the sustainability of the Basin, the BMC and the BMC Parties (Los Osos Community Services District, Golden State Water Company, S&T Mutual Water Company, and the County of San Luis Obispo) are working on multiple initiatives to modify or construct new infrastructure, improve the groundwater monitoring program, and develop or improve tools utilized to assess Basin conditions. A summary of the most relevant initiatives is provided below.

Water Recycling Funding Study

The Los Osos Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFP) Study (Attachment 8) included development of the Transient Model and performance of a Supply Alternatives Analysis. The supply alternatives analysis utilizes the Transient Model to evaluate different potential recycled water and other water supply alternatives to help identify projects or actions that will benefit the sustainability of the Basin. In evaluating each of the alternatives, the supply analysis looks to quantify the benefit to the Basin and assess potential costs and other feasibility considerations. The supply alternatives considered in the analysis are listed below:

1. Non-Potable Reuse, Irrigation

- Urban Reuse: Conversion of existing schools, park, and cemetery irrigation systems to be served by the existing non-potable recycled water distribution system and offset potable water deliveries.
 - Agriculture Reuse: Distribution of recycled water to agriculture users to offset groundwater pumping.
2. Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR), Groundwater Replenishment
- IPR, Creek Discharge: Discharge to Los Osos Creek to enhance groundwater recharge.
 - IPR, Injection for Seawater Barrier: Injection of advanced purified water into the lower aquifer of the Los Osos Basin to increase recharge and create a seawater intrusion barrier.
3. New Potable Supplies
- Direct Potable Reuse (DPR): Delivery of advanced purified water to the drinking water distribution system to offset groundwater pumping.
 - Upper Aquifer Nitrate Treatment: Regional Nitrate Treatment Facility to allow for enhanced use of nitrate contaminated upper aquifer supplies.
 - Surface Water Intertie Pipeline: Interconnection with regional surface water conveyance system to provide access to State Water or other supplies to enable conjunctive use. This project is described in more detail in the “Los Osos Community Services District Resiliency Intertie Project” section below.

The WRF Study was completed in 2025 and informs the BMC and Purveyors on which projects are most effective for improving the sustainability of the Basin to guide implementation of future projects.

Los Osos Community Services District Resiliency Intertie Project

The Los Osos Community Services District continues to make progress towards implementation of the Water Resiliency Intertie Project (Intertie Project) since they began investigations into alternative water supply sources in 2021. Efforts to date include the preparation of a preliminary design report, environmental review, and the pursuit of funding sources. At the September 4, 2025 CSD Board meeting, the Board approved a contract in the amount of \$854,044 design of the intertie pipeline. The Project design was initially anticipated to take approximately one year to complete. Project design work is behind schedule due to the complicated nature of geography and geology in the State Park area and the extended effort to complete the design of the Los Osos Creek bridge crossing segment of the project. The CSD will be coordinating with the County of San Luis Obispo (County) and the bridge contractor to assist with selecting a contractor for the installation of the pipeline. The 30% design documents have been completed. 100% designs are anticipated to be completed in February 2027. Construction for the portion of the pipeline on the bridge crossing is anticipated to begin in March 2027.

Basin Metric Updates

The BMC has provided direction to BMC Staff to update the Basin Metrics utilized to evaluate nitrate impacts to the Upper Aquifer, seawater intrusion into the Lower Aquifer, and the effect of management efforts of the Basin Management Committee (BMC). The updated metrics will allow the BMC to consider

inclusion of new (e.g. Cuesta by the Sea, Skyline, Sweet Springs) or modified (LA13, LA14, LA16) monitoring wells and other modification to improve the effectiveness of the metrics for informing the BMC on the status of Basin sustainability.

Transient Model Updates

The County intends to utilize the Transient Model to evaluate growth scenarios associated with the GMO. The County has contracted with an independent hydrogeologic consultant to run additional scenarios and propose refinements to the model. Any refinements made to the model will be in coordination and agreement with the WRF Study Technical Advisory Committee and model developer (Cleath-Harris Geologists).

2027 Los Osos BMC Growth Rate Recommendations

The adopted Sustainable Yield for CY 2027 remains constant at 2,000 AFY, consistent with the previous year. For CY 2026, the Sustainable Yield for the Basin was significantly reduced from previous estimates.

[insert recommendation based on Board action]

Sincerely,

Mark Zimmer, Chair of the Los Osos Basin Management Committee

Attachments

1. [Title 26 - GROWTH MANAGEMENT | County Code | San Luis Obispo County, CA | Municode Library](#)
2. [Updated Basin Plan for the Los Osos Groundwater Basin](#)
3. [Los Osos Community Plan \(December 2024\)](#)
4. [Sustainable Yield 2026 Baseline Scenario Results for the Los Osos Basin - Los Osos Groundwater Basin](#)
5. [October 15, 2025 Regular BMC Meeting \(CY 2026 SY Adoption\)](#)
6. [August 19, 2026 Regular BMC Meeting \(CY 2027 SY Adoption\)](#)
7. [2025 LOBMC Annual Report - Los Osos Groundwater Basin](#)
8. [Final Los Osos Water Recycling Funding Program \(WRF\) Study Supply Alternatives Analysis](#)