Stories of a Resilient SLO

January 28, 2020
Webinar Logistics

Q&A
- Submit questions for panelists through the Q&A module at any point during the webinar.
- Upvote questions that you are interested in hearing responses to.

Chat
- Engage in a dialogue with your peers – share resources, case studies, and thoughts.
- Reach out to LGC staff if you encounter technical issues or have questions.
Thank you to our Partners!
Mayor Harmon

City of San Luis Obispo
Welcome to Resilient SLO

Thank you for engaging in an important planning initiative in our community.

https://www.lgc.org/resilient-slo/
What is Resilient SLO?

A planning initiative to help our community prepare for the impacts of climate change, which will result in an update to the City General Plan-Safety Element.
What Does the Project Include?

- **Community Input**: On needs and priorities.
- **Vulnerability Assessment**: Of climate-related risks to the city.
- **Education**: For residents, businesses, and city staff.
- **Adaptation Strategies**: To help the city adapt to expected changes.
- **General Plan - Safety Element**: Update to a key document that guides the future of the city.
- **Implementation Guide**: To bring strategies to action.

https://www.lgc.org/resilient-slo/
Resilience- What does that mean?

Adrienne Greve
Professor, City & Regional Planning
California Polytechnic State University
Resilience – What does that mean?

Easy to think of it as:
Resilience – What does that mean?

But, what if things are changing and you cannot go back?
Resilience – What does that mean?

“We understand resilience as the ability to self-organize, learn, and adapt.” (Djalante et al. 2011, p. 3)

We can go back, just with a different route & a different means of travel to an even better state than the one you began with.
Resilience – What does that mean?

- Identify the detours
  - What will the projected climate impacts mean for SLO on the ground with the community?
- Where do we go?
  - What actions are needed to assure that SLO is both ready & able to adjust to the changes that are coming?
Community stories help us understand how we have overcome past challenges and what makes SLO resilient.

“In 1995 San Luis Obispo County experienced one of the largest storms and flood events in its history....Nature is the ultimate teacher. Some lessons are harsher than others, but we learn to pick-up the pieces and put them back together again.”

~ Jessica, SLO Non-profit Advisor

What does community resilience mean to you?

“The ability for community and families to bounce back stronger after a setback like a natural disaster”

~ Kelly Fisher

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Read Stories of Resilience from Community Members!

Watch community members share their stories!

View submitted stories and submit your own at: www.lgc.org/resilient-slo
Climate Resilience from an Equity Perspective

Beya Makekau
Director: Student Diversity and Belonging, Student Affairs
California Polytechnic State University
What is Going on With Our Climate?

John Lindsey
Marine Meteorologist
PG&E
Baseline Conditions Report

Kai Lord-Farmer
Air Quality and Climate Change Analyst
Ascent
Baseline Conditions Report

Purpose

• First step in the Vulnerability Assessment process
• Provides a baseline of current climate-related hazards
• Identifies community sensitivities likely to be affected by climate change
• Context to inform development of climate resilience strategies and the Safety Element update

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Report Overview

Existing Hazards Assessment
- Flood
- Wildfire
- Extreme Heat
- Drought
- Urban Heat Island

Sensitive Infrastructure, Populations, and Functions
- Transportation System and Built Environment
- Socioeconomic Trends and Vulnerable Populations
- Community and Economic Functions
Key Findings

Existing Plans and Resources

• General Plan Safety Element (Existing)
• Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Community Wildfire Protection Plan
• Urban Water Management Plan
• Waterway Management Plan

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Key Findings

Flooding

• 100-Year Floodplain
  • Downtown SLO surrounding San Luis Obispo Creek – Higuera Street
  • Los Osos Valley Road near Prefumo Creek
• 500-Year Floodplain
  • Laguna Lake neighborhood
  • Near Sinsheimer Park
  • East of downtown SLO
Key Findings

Historic Large Flooding Events

• 1868–1872
• 1969
• 1973
• 1982
• 1995
• 1998
• 2001
• 2004

U.S. 101 near Prefumo Creek 1973

Los Osos Valley Road 1982

Downtown SLO 2004
Key Findings

Wildfire and Grassland Fire
- Irish Hills Natural Reserve
- Reservoir Canyon Natural Reserve
- South Hills
- Bishops Peak

Wildland Urban Interface
- Areas of human development in or near areas prone to wildfire

https://www.lgc.org/resilient-slo/
Key Findings

Historic and Recent Wildfires

South Hills near Bridge Street 2020

Cuesta Grade Fire 2015

Wildfire Smoke in Paso Robles

https://www.lgc.org/resilient-slo/
Key Findings

Extreme Heat and Heat Waves
• Historic – 4 days above 90°F per year
• Above 90°F for seven consecutive days in August 2020
• Warm nights during heat waves

Urban Heat Island Effect
• Urban areas being warmer than surrounding rural areas because of human activity and land use patterns
Key Findings

Historic Droughts Affecting SLO
• 1929 – 1934
• 1975 – 1977
• 1987 – 1992
• 2007 – 2009
• 2012 – 2017

Four primary sources for SLO water supply:
• Whale Rock Reservoir
• Salinas Reservoir
• Nacimiento Reservoir
• Recycled water
Key Findings

Vulnerable Populations

• 13 percent of City population over the age of 65
• 3 percent of the population under the age of 5
• 13 percent of the population under the age of 18
• 6 percent of population speaks language other than English at home
• 57 percent of residents paying 35 percent or more for housing
Key Findings

Economic Vulnerabilities

• City has jobs-to-housing ratio of 2.7 (jobs per housing unit)
• Reliance on retail and tourism
  • 25 percent of the City’s revenue came from sale tax
  • 10 percent of revenue came from the transient occupancy tax, generated from hotels in the City
• 15 percent of employees in accommodation and services
• 12 percent of employees in retail trade
Baseline Conditions Report

CLIMATE CONCERN BY AGE

Percent of Respondents

Drought and Decreased Water Supply
Flooding and Storm Damage
Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves
Sea Level Rise
Wildfires
Wildfire Smoke

18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64

We will be asking for your input on the right adaptation strategies for our community.

Keep up to date on the project website: https://www.lgc.org/resilient-slo/

Email Teresa McClish: tmcclish@slocity.org

Stay tuned for future events!
Questions?

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Thank you for attending today’s presentation!

Stay Involved:

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Email Teresa McClish: tmcclish@slocity.org