

SSCSD. Interim GM Report 4/1/24

I met with Supervisor Bruce Gibson, LAFCO Executive Rob Fitzroy, and Assistant SLO County Public Works Director Kate Ballentyne on Monday to discuss the specific process of applying for the district to dissolve and become a County Service Area. While this process is controlled by law and is a bit tedious, both the County and LAFCO are aware of the need for the district to become a County Service Area.

As I've stated previously, the district needs a stable governance system to manage these requirements, which is next to impossible under the current conditions. We are obviously unable to have a full-functioning, five member board. And for the last several decades, the district has struggled to maintain any form of reliable leadership that was capable of adding needed capacity for the necessary growth for the future.

Our water system has really aged out – our water meters are all old, as is the meter reading and billing system. The water system does not have the capacity to filter our water sufficiently in heavy rains. The Wastewater Treatment Plant has to move. We have insufficient water storage capacity for a potential significant fire emergency, and while we will be raising water and sewer rates next month, that process is controlled by law and there is no way an increase in rates could resolve our needs.

The district does not have the capacity to bring in millions of dollars of grants to make these changes all at once. And, most importantly, our community is significantly disadvantaged in both the impact of the highway one closure on our hotels and restaurants as well as the economic levels of our community members.

We must seek assistance from a larger agency, that agency is the County of San Luis Obispo. The answer for us is clearly to become a County Service Area.