SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
5/9/24 report by Director Varni

WASTEWATER

1. South SLO County Sanitation District (SSLOCSD) is controlled and financed by the resident customers of Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Oceano. It treats all sewage from the three communities, wastewater trucked in from other areas, and conveys treated wastewater from Pismo Beach into the ocean outfall pipeline.

1. $30 million redundancy project started in 2021. In 2023 the new concrete clarifier tank develop a major crack in bottom due to water pressure from rising groundwater levels. Entire bottom has to be removed and replaced with a structurally stronger design. Portions of the older plant may be vulnerable to such problems as well.

1. Due to the threat of rising sea levels the California Coastal Commission, as a condition of the redundancy project building permit, required that the entire treatment plant be relocated and operational by 2047. The communities of Oceano, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach will pay for this project at an estimated cost of more that $250,000,000. It is hoped that Federal and State grants will defray a significant portion of these costs.
—-identify land for the new project including treated water recycling
—-design and engineer
—-environmental review and permitting
—-financing
—construction

WASTEWATER RECYCLING

1. The new treatment plant will be required to recycle wastewater which means three stages of treatment in order to make it potable. The value is the water can be reused for the same purposes and is not wasted, thus increasing available water supplies which would have been previously discharged into the ocean. In essence, this is what the Central Coast Blue project intended to do on a much smaller scale. The new treatment plant will be doing this on a much larger scale. Recycled water can be used for residential, business, landscape, and agricultural purposes. Currently the treatment plant discharges approximately 2,500 acre feet of water a year into the ocean.