

Water Reclamation Facility Program

The City of Morro Bay is taking steps toward a drought-resistant and sustainable water future by planning and building water and wastewater infrastructure. The Water Reclamation Facility Program will provide a reliable drinking water supply even during extended periods of drought.

About the Program

The City of Morro Bay is investing in the construction of the Water Reclamation Facility Program that will protect our environment, and provide a safe, clean and reliable water supply for our community.

The Water Reclamation Facility Program involves replacing the City's existing wastewater treatment plant with an advanced water purification facility that will meet state regulations, protect the environment, and contribute a safe and reliable water source for Morro Bay's homes and businesses. The project will create a drought buffer and will be capable of providing up to 80 percent of the City's water needs in the future.



Future Site of the one million gallon per day advanced treatment facility to be constructed on South Bay Boulevard north of Highway 1



CURRENT SCHEDULE

Construction beginning in 2020
Construction completed by 2023

The Water Reclamation Facility Program includes construction of the following facilities:

- A new one million gallon per day advanced treatment facility on South Bay Boulevard north of Highway 1
- Two new lift stations
- Approximately 3.5 miles of pipelines
- Wells to inject the purified water into the groundwater aquifer, which can be extracted for reuse through the City's existing infrastructure.



Why Is This Infrastructure Needed?

To meet state and federal requirements, the City must construct a new wastewater treatment facility in an inland location away from the coastal zone and hazards including sea-level rise, tsunami and flood inundation. Relocating the facility further inland is necessary to continue providing reliable wastewater and water service to Morro Bay residents and businesses.

To be better prepared for future droughts, the City is making the most of its water resources and reducing reliance on imported water. Currently, the City is largely dependent on imported water from the State Water Project, but this new infrastructure will use purified water to replenish the local groundwater basin to provide a future, locally-controlled water supply for the City.



Infrastructure will include a new Water Reclamation Facility, pipelines, two new lift stations and wells to inject the purified water into the groundwater aquifer.

Potable Reuse

The new Water Reclamation Facility will use a proven, multi-step advanced purification process to provide a clean, safe and high-quality drinking water supply. Injecting water from the Water Reclamation Facility into the groundwater aquifer will help the City comply with increasingly stringent regulations for groundwater use and address saltwater intrusion.

The purified water from the Water Reclamation Facility will meet or surpass all state and federal drinking water standards. The City will vigilantly monitor and test the water at a third-party state-certified laboratory before it is ever delivered to the community.



Investments For The Future

A secure water supply and reliable infrastructure require investment, and the City is pursuing all available options to keep the program affordable for ratepayers. The program has been carefully scaled for the community and the demands of the system, and the infrastructure will be built and operated efficiently and optimally.

Now is the most financially feasible time to invest in this program. The City is pursuing grants and low-interest loans through state and federal agencies to help fund the program and reduce the impact to ratepayers. This includes successfully securing grant funding and a low-interest loan through the State Water Resources Control Board and funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program toward the potable reuse component. The City is also pursuing low-interest loans through the State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund to further reduce the impact to ratepayers.