

# 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.

## About the Program

The City of Morro Bay invested in the construction of the Water Reclamation Facility Program to protect our environment, and be capable of providing 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 be capable of creating a drought buffer and could support the City's water needs in the future.



*The City of Morro Bay Water Resources Center, a one million gallon per day advanced treatment facility, was completed in fall 2022.*

## Why Is This Infrastructure Needed?

To meet state and federal requirements, the City constructed 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 was necessary to continue providing reliable wastewater and water service to Morro Bay residents and businesses. The facility, called the Water Resources Center, was completed ahead of schedule before the February 2023 deadline.

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 be capable of using purified water in the future to replenish the local groundwater basin to provide a future, locally-controlled water supply for the City.

### 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 station
- 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.



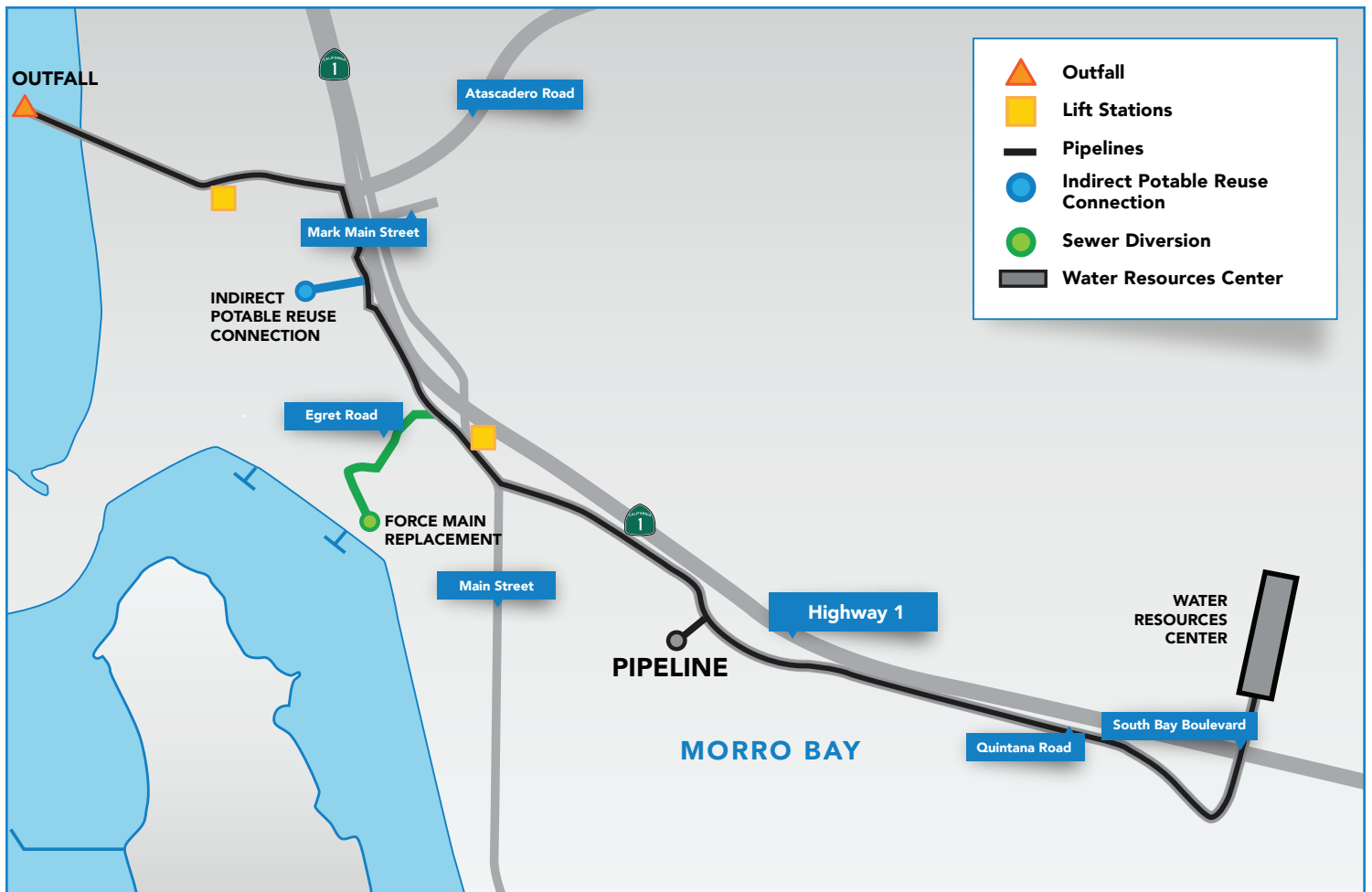
### CURRENT SCHEDULE

#### Design and Construction of Injection Wells:

December 2022–March 2025

#### Decommissioning of Current Wastewater Treatment Plant:

December 2022–January 2025



The first phase of construction included the new Water Resources Center, pipelines and two new lift stations. The second phase of construction will include wells to inject the purified water into the groundwater aquifer.

## Potable Reuse: Water of the Future

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

## Investments For The Future

A secure water supply and reliable infrastructure require investment, and the City has been successful in securing \$138 million in low-interest federal and state loans, and \$15.5 million in grants. 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.

**The purified water from the Water Resources Center 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.**

