



Physical Environment Issues

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Summary

Indicator	Measurement	Data	Year	Trend	Direction	Page
Physical Environment Concerns	Percentage of telephone survey respondents “very concerned” and “somewhat concerned” about water quality	79.5%	2010	—		159
Growth Patterns	Percentage of total building permits in county that are urban	57%	2009	↓		162
School Overcrowding	Number of schools with the highest levels (III) of severity for exceeding recommended school capacity	16	2009	—		164
Agricultural and Open Space	Percentage of San Luis Obispo County government land zoned for recreation and open space	36%	2009	—		166
Parks	Percentage of respondents visiting any outdoor recreation locations in San Luis Obispo County at least once a week over the past 3 months	39.4%	2010	↑		169
Transportation	Percent change in daily vehicle miles traveled by residents since 2001	8.4%	2008	↑		173
Air Quality	Number of days San Luis Obispo County exceeded state standard of particulate matter less than 10 microns	22	2007	↑		176
Water Supply	Number of communities in which water demand exceeds supply	4	2009	—		178
Water Quality	Number of violations for state small water systems and small public water systems	60	2008-2009	↓		182
Energy Use	Average residential consumption per person (KWh)	2,467	2009	—		184

Legend

Item	Description
	Indicates data moving in an upward direction over time.
	Indicates data moving in a downward direction over time.
	Indicates data remaining constant over time or no trend data available.
	Indicates data with a combination of both challenges and successes.
	Indicates data moving in a negative direction.
	Indicates data moving in a positive direction.



Physical Environment Concerns

Community concerns can empower advocacy and grassroots organization for creating change around public health and safety issues. Therefore, it is important to identify which issues are most relevant to residents so that progressive planning for change can be implemented.¹ This year community members in San Luis Obispo County were most concerned about the following environmental issues: water quality (80%), building in open space (69%), and traffic congestion (63%). These have remained the top rated community concerns among residents since 2001.



How concerned are you about the following issues in your community?

	Very concerned and Somewhat concerned				Total respondents			
	2001	2003	2006	2010	2001	2003	2006	2010
Traffic congestion	76.3%	72.2%	82.6%	62.5%	807	522	501	1,100
Building in open space	76.6%	75.6%	74.6%	68.8%	798	522	492	1,065
Water quality	80.7%	78.4%	75.5%	79.5%	799	522	500	1,093
Air pollution	69.1%	66.8%	70.0%	61.4%	806	522	501	1,097
Pesticide use near homes	NA	NA	69.4%	60.4%	NA	522	494	1,089

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2001, 2003, 2006, and 2010.

How concerned are you about water quality in your community? (2010)

Response	Dependent Adults		Homeless		Spanish Speaking Parents	
	2006	2010	2006	2010	2006	2010
Very concerned	61.0%	55.0%	52.8%	59.2%	56.1%	20.7%
Somewhat concerned	27.0%	30.7%	32.9%	24.2%	22.9%	56.3%
Not at all concerned	12.0%	14.3%	14.4%	16.7%	21.0%	23.0%
Total respondents	241	140	216	120	157	87

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Face-To-Face Survey, 2006 and 2010.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

¹ Minkler, M. (2005). *Community Organizing and Community Building for Health, (2nd Ed)*. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

**How concerned are you about building in open space in your community?
(2010)**

Response	Dependent Adults		Homeless		Spanish Speaking Parents	
	2006	2010	2006	2010	2006	2010
Very concerned	40.6%	33.8%	33.2%	30.8%	21.5%	9.3%
Somewhat concerned	31.0%	33.8%	33.2%	37.5%	44.3%	55.8%
Not at all concerned	28.5%	32.4%	33.6%	31.7%	34.2%	34.9%
Total respondents	239	139	214	120	158	86

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Face-To-Face Survey, 2006 and 2010.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

**How concerned are you about the traffic congestion in your community?
(2010)**

Response	Dependent Adults		Homeless		Spanish Speaking Parents	
	2006	2010	2006	2010	2006	2010
Very concerned	33.5%	23.7%	31.3%	25.6%	17.1%	10.7%
Somewhat concerned	42.0%	41.7%	38.9%	38.8%	50.0%	65.5%
Not at all concerned	24.5%	34.5%	29.9%	35.5%	32.9%	23.8%
Total respondents	245	139	211	121	158	84

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Face-To-Face Survey, 2006 and 2010.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

**How concerned are you about loss of wildlife habitat in your community?
(2010)**

Response	Dependent Adults		Homeless		Spanish Speaking Parents	
	2006	2010	2006	2010	2006	2010
Very concerned	49.8%	49.3%	45.5%	44.5%	24.2%	16.3%
Somewhat concerned	28.4%	31.4%	28.6%	35.3%	38.9%	53.5%
Not at all concerned	21.8%	19.3%	25.8%	20.2%	36.9%	30.2%
Total respondents	243	140	213	119	157	86

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Face-To-Face Survey, 2006 and 2010.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

How concerned are you about air pollution in your community? (2010)

Response	Dependent Adults		Homeless		Spanish Speaking Parents	
	2006	2010	2006	2010	2006	2010
Very concerned	59.8%	39.1%	50.5%	49.2%	60.1%	29.9%
Somewhat concerned	25.8%	37.7%	34.3%	32.5%	19.0%	43.7%
Not at all concerned	14.3%	23.2%	15.3%	18.3%	20.9%	26.4%
Total respondents	244	138	216	120	158	87

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Face-To-Face Survey, 2006 and 2010.

Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to respondents answering "Don't know."

Growth Patterns

Planning and community development staff throughout San Luis Obispo County have worked with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) to develop the *Preliminary Sustainable Communities Strategy (PSCS)*, a coordinated regional land use and transportation planning effort that is incorporated into SLOCOG's 2010 Regional Transportation Plan update. The resulting "preferred growth scenario" would result in additional growth in the existing urbanized areas and a reduction in future growth in the rural areas.



In order to achieve this desired outcome, over the next 25 years, 66% of new development in the unincorporated area would have to be built in urban areas, while 34% of new growth would be in rural areas. Already, San Luis Obispo County has been moving toward this goal, as 63% of all building permits approved in the county between 2000 and 2009 have been built in urban areas.

Distribution of Building Permits (Urban vs. Rural)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total	% of Building Permits that are Urban
2000	277	493	770	64%
2001	230	651	881	74%
2002	366	521	887	59%
2003	327	541	868	62%
2004	437	683	1120	61%
2005	372	661	1033	64%
2006	385	521	906	58%
2007	283	512	795	64%
2008	304	422	726	58%
2009	54	72	126	57%
Total 2000-2009	3,035	5,077	8,112	63%

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Resource Management System Annual Summary Report, 2009.

New Dwelling Unit Permits by Unincorporated Community

Community	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Arroyo Grande fringe	44	39	39	31	19	28	27	27	9	263
Atascadero fringe	NA	4	2	2	5	2	1	1	3	20
Avila Beach	40	21	42	60	39	22	39	38	7	308
Cambria	47	43	36	25	17	11	15	17	12	223
Cayucos	18	27	21	19	24	16	16	18	3	162
Heritage Ranch	22	19	31	63	76	41	49	19	24	344
Los Osos	17	5	7	5	4	4	7	10	4	63
Nipomo	104	118	123	299	164	108	132	128	99	1,275
Oak Shores	26	18	8	9	13	15	9	8	16	122
Oceano	45	20	27	29	54	23	27	17	18	260
Paso Robles fringe	8	9	15	7	27	9	6	7	5	93
San Luis Obispo fringe	0	0	1	NA	2	28	1	NA	NA	32
San Miguel	4	5	52	53	130	34	14	18	8	318
Santa Margarita	8	5	7	3	2	5	1	2	NA	33
Shandon urban	50	7	7	26	3	4	6	NA	1	104
Templeton	168	61	55	93	35	42	44	76	15	589

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, 2010.



School Capacities

School overcrowding takes a toll on students' learning because inadequate facilities create more limited educational opportunities. Thus, it is important that schools do not exceed their enrollment capacity.² In San Luis Obispo County, Paso Robles, Templeton Unified, and Lucia Mar Unified are three school districts that include schools with the highest levels of severity for reaching or surpassing their physical capacity of students. Fortunately, several districts, such as San Luis Coastal Unified and Coast Unified, include schools that are not projected to reach or exceed student capacity in the near future.



Enrollment vs. Capacity 2008-2009, by School

District	School	Capacity	Enrollment	Enrollment as percentage of capacity	LOS ¹
Lucia Mar Unified	Five Cities Elementary	3,991	4,454	112%	III
	Five Cities Middle	1,210	1,043	86%	OK
	Arroyo Grande H.S.	1,500	2,233	149%	III
	Nipomo Elementary	1,200	1,060	88%	OK
	Nipomo Middle	600	622	104%	III
	Nipomo H.S.	1,025	1,220	119%	III
	Lopez H.S.	250	145	58%	OK
Coast Unified and Cayucos Elementary	Cayucos Elementary	240	187	78%	OK
	Cambria Elementary	360	307	85%	OK
	Santa Lucia Middle	103	161	156%	III
	Coast Union H.S.	506	265	52%	OK
Shandon Unified	Shandon Elementary	140	146	104%	III
	Parkfield Elementary	27	14	52%	OK
	Shandon Jr/Sr H.S.	124	149	120%	III
Pleasant Valley Union	Pleasant Valley School	104	137	132%	III

² Lee, V.E., Ready, D.D., Welner, K.G. (2004). Educational Equity and School Structure: School Size, Overcrowding, and Schools-Within-Schools. *Teachers College Record (106)10, 1989-2014*. Teachers College, Columbia University 0161-4681.

District	School	Capacity	Enrollment	Enrollment as percentage of capacity	LOS ¹
San Luis Coastal Unified	Los Osos Elementary	897	726	81%	OK
	Los Osos Middle	750	364	49%	OK
	Morro Bay H.S.	1,030	908	88%	OK
	Morro Bay Elementary	529	418	79%	OK
	San Luis Obispo Elementary	2,707	2,265	84%	OK
	Laguna Middle	800	707	88%	OK
	San Luis Obispo H.S.	1,550	1,523	98%	III
	Pacific Beach H.S.	90	62	69%	OK
San Miguel Joint Union	K-5 and K-8	690	566	82%	OK
Paso Robles	Paso Robles Elementary	2,930	2,899	99%	II
	Paso Robles Middle	1,170	1,497	128%	III
	Paso Robles H.S.	1,836	2,111	115%	III
Templeton Unified	Templeton Elementary	955	872	91%	III
	Templeton Middle	545	523	96%	III
	Templeton H.S.	720	794	110%	III
Atascadero Unified	Atascadero Elementary	1,708	1,820	107%	III
	Atascadero Jr. High	1,086	714	66%	OK
	Atascadero H.S.	1,824	1,521	83%	I
	Carrisa Plains K-8	53	25	47%	OK
	Creston Elementary	40	111	278%	III
	Santa Margarita Elementary	358	329	92%	OK

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Resource Management System Annual Summary Report, 2009

¹LOS stands for "Level of Severity." Levels include:

Level I: When enrollment projections reach school capacity within 7 years

Level II: When enrollment projections reach school capacity within 5 years

Level III: When enrollment equals or exceeds school capacity

OK: when a school is not at its capacity, nor do enrollment projections reach school capacity within 7 years



Agriculture and Open Space

Citizens, agriculturalists, and local policy makers have long recognized the importance of agriculture in San Luis Obispo County, as land use choices and decisions impact not only the owners of the land but also the lives of neighbors and the community at large.³ In 2010, a solid majority (69%) of survey respondents reported being “very” or “somewhat” concerned about building in open spaces. Interest in managing development and growth and preserving the physical and social amenities of open spaces and rural areas is of high priority to policy makers, public officials, and citizens of San Luis Obispo County. A survey of land resources in 2009 indicated that a total of 42% of federal land and 28% of state, county, and local agency acreage was zoned as recreation or open space, not including recreation or open space zoned acreage within city limits. However, overall, there has been a decrease in agricultural land holdings and an increase in developed acreage.



Agricultural Land Converted to Urban Use

Type of Land	Acreage					% of Total Agricultural Land Converted	94-06 Net Conversion
	1994-1996	1998-2000	2000-2002	2002-2004	2004-2006		
Prime Farmland ¹	65	94	161	31	26	2%	378
Statewide Importance	64	64	80	13	36	3%	257
Unique ²	17	40	43	53	24	2%	203
Local Importance ^{2,4}	604	1,366	632	383	708	51%	3,767
Grazing Land ^{3,4}	258	862	471	187	593	43%	2,371
Total Agricultural Acres Converted	1,008	2,426	1,387	667	1,387	100%	6,976

Source: California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Farmland Conversion Reports 1994-2006, Retrieved 2010.

Note: 1996-1998 data is unavailable.

¹Conversion from Prime Farmland is primarily due to land left idle or used for dry land grain production for three or more update cycles.

² Conversion to Grazing Land due to land left idle for three or more update cycles.

³ Conversion to Unique Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance primarily due to the delineation of new irrigated crops and dry land grain production.

⁴ Conversion to Other Land primarily due to the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate low density housing throughout the county.

³ San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, *Land Use Program Overview*, Retrieved from http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm/land_use

San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Land by Category

Type of Land	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	02-06 ² Percent Change
Important Farmland Subtotal	359,500	357,602	357,772	355,543	279,061	276,366	270,407	-3.1%
Grazing Land	622,835	662,367	661,939	661,737	749,786	750,811	742,004	-1.0%
Agricultural Land Total	1,022,335	1,019,969	1,019,711	1,017,280	1,028,847	1,027,177	1,012,411	-1.6%
Percent of Total County Land ¹	48.1%	48.0%	48.0%	47.8%	48.4%	48.3%	47.6%	-
Total Acres of Urban and Built up Land	35,997	37,054	37,184	39,380	41,361	42,126	43,729	5.7%
Percent of Total County Land ¹	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%	-
Other Land	234,809	234,759	234,888	234,902	221,353	222,267	235,511	6.4%
Total Area Inventoried	1,302,170	1,302,171	1,302,172	1,302,169	1,302,168	1,302,173	1,302,173	0.0%

Source: California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Conversion Reports, 1994-2006, Retrieved 2010.

Note: Reports are published biennially (every two years), and are available four years after the time period covered.

¹County acreage used to calculate percentages is that used by San Luis Obispo Department of Planning: 2,126,339. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program inventory for San Luis Obispo County only includes 1,302,173 acres (61 percent of the county's land area)

²Percent change is calculated from 2002 to 2006 because the measurement method for calculating acreage changed in 2002 due to the incorporation of digital soil survey data (SSURGO). Therefore the percent change is most accurate for the most recent years (2002-2006).

Harvested Crop, Grazed Rangeland, and Total Acreage (in thousands)

Type of Acreage	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	01-09 % Change
Harvested Crop Acreage	111.8	111.7	112.8	110.5	98.6	108.2	102.6	-8.3%
Grazed Rangeland Acreage	1,067.7	1,065.0	1,051.3	1,047.8	1,031.1	1,034.9	1,035.1	-3.1%
Total Acreage	1,179.5	1,176.7	1,164.1	1,158.3	1,129.7	1,143.1	1,137.7	-3.5%

Source: San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures, Annual Report, 2001-2009.

County-wide Land Inventory, July 2010

Government Lands	Acreage	Land Zoned as Recreation¹	Land Zoned as Open Space¹	Land in Other Zoning Designations
Federal Government Lands	463,177	3,251	193,336	266,590
State Government Lands	74,959	9,400	3,481	62,078
SLO County Government Lands	11,629	5,568	1,639	4,422
City Government Lands	6267	NA	NA	NA
Local Government Lands ²	4575	91	1,267	3217
Other Government Lands ³	10,711	968	6,661	3082
Government Lands Total Acreage	571,318	19,278	206,384	339,389
Percent of Total Acreage	100.0%	3.4%	36.1%	59.4%

Zoning – County Unincorporated⁴	Acreage	Percent of Unincorporated County Acreage
Agriculture	1,395,004	67.1%
Open Space	214,112	10.3%
Recreation	29,844	1.4%
Total Acreage	1,638,960	78.9%

Lands Protected by Contract/Easement	Acreage	Percent of County Gross Acreage
Agriculture - Williamson Act ⁵	758,017	35.7%
Conservation Easement ⁶	17,060	0.8%
Open Space Easement ⁶	92,029	4.3%
Scenic Easement ⁷	30	<0.1%
Total Acreage	867,136	40.8%

Unincorporated County Acreage	2,077,599
Incorporated Cities Acreage	48,640
Total County Acreage (Gross)	2,126,239

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, 2010.

Note: Government land zoned in other category is not protected from development. Only open space or recreation land is protected from residential subdivision development, industrial complex development, and large-scale commercial development

¹Does not include acreage of Recreation or Open Space Zoning within City Limits

²CSDs, Schools, Districts

³Monterey County Water Resource Agency

⁴Land zoned for agriculture, open space, or recreation is utilized for many purposes. "Recreational land" can include campgrounds, golf courses, etc.

⁵ The California Land Conservation Act of 1965--commonly referred to as the Williamson Act--enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. Local governments receive an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the state via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971.

⁶Cities and counties may accept or purchase easements from private landowners for open space and resource conservation purposes. Open space and conservation easements are, in effect, purchases of development rights. The deed transferring an easement to a local government must restrict the transferred property's use to open space or resource conservation activities.

⁷When a conservation easement includes the goal of preserving desirable views of an area, it is said to have a scenic conservation purpose. If preservation of scenic resources is the sole purpose of the conservation easement, it may be referred to as a scenic conservation easement or simply a scenic easement.

Parks

This year, about 40% of San Luis Obispo residents visited their nearest park, trail, or beach at least once a week, while less than 10% never visited an outdoor recreation location in the past three months. Nearly 50% of residents live a half-mile or less from the nearest park or trail, increasing their ease of access to exercise and activity outdoors. However, it may be that a lack of paths or trails in some areas has prevented residents from walking or biking there, as these are opportunities residents would most like to see more of in their area.



In the past three months, how many times have you visited any outdoor recreation locations in San Luis Obispo County such as a park, trail, or beach?

Response	2001	2003	2010
None	21.8%	12.5%	9.4%
1-2 times	15.4%	15.5%	12.0%
3-5 times	22.3%	20.3%	21.7%
6-10 times	14.7%	15.9%	17.5%
11-25 times	13.4%	16.5%	20.2%
26-50 times	8.0%	7.7%	8.4%
More than 50 times	4.5%	11.3%	10.8%
Total respondents	804	522	1,098

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2001, 2003, and 2010.

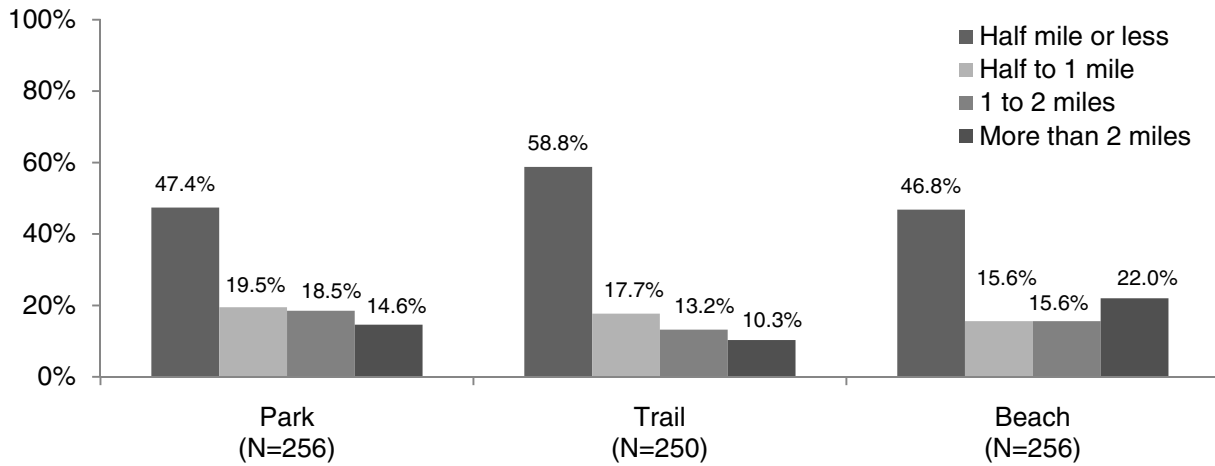
Note: This telephone survey question was not asked in 2006.

How far from your home is the nearest... (2010)

	1/2 mile or less	1/2 to 1 mile	1 to 2 miles	More than 2 miles	Total respondents
Park	48.9%	18.8%	17.3%	15.0%	1,094
Trail	48.8%	17.7%	14.6%	18.9%	1,023
Beach	22.0%	9.1%	10.3%	58.6%	1,090

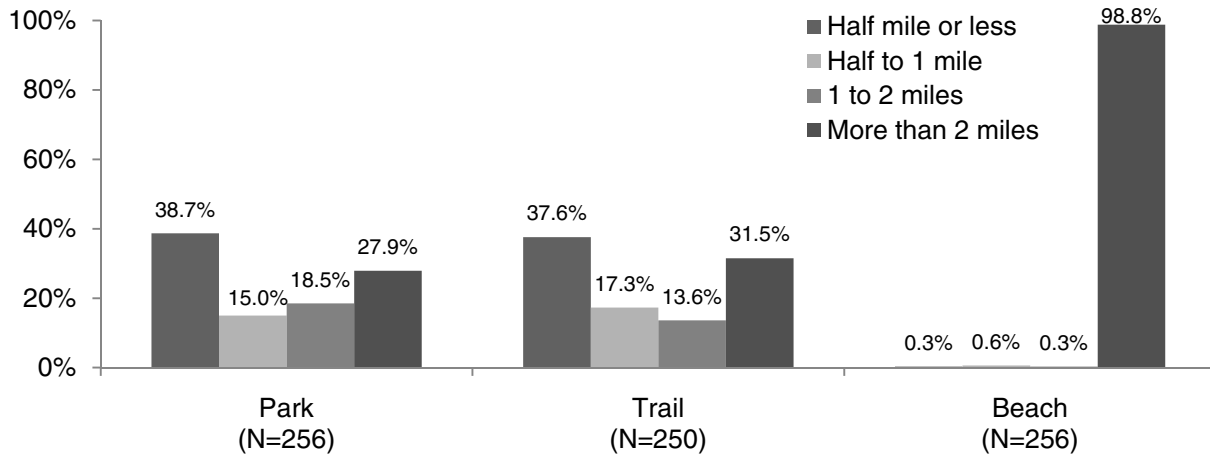
Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

📞 How far from your home is the nearest...? (North County Region)



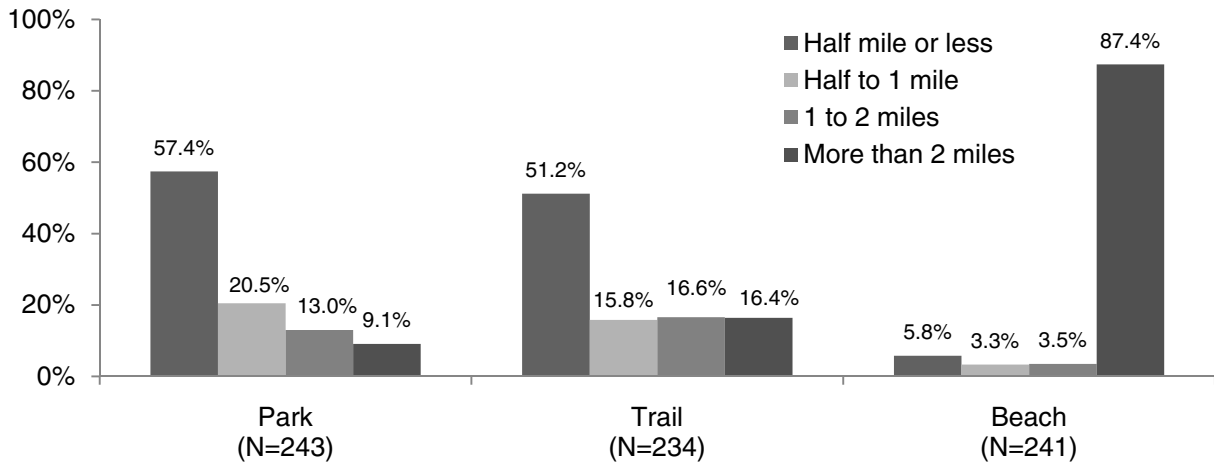
Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

📞 How far from your home is the nearest...? (North Coast Region)



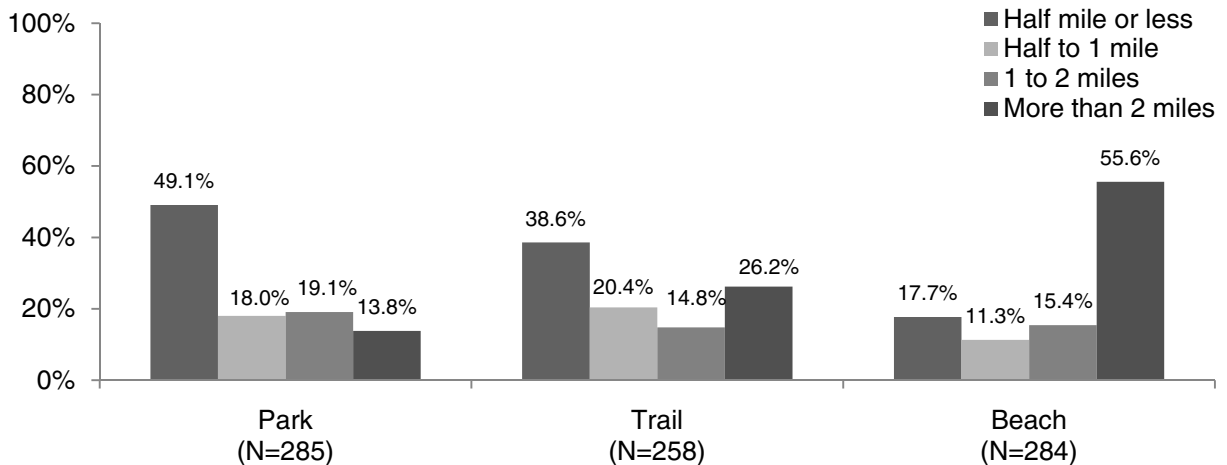
Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

☎ How far from your home is the nearest...? (San Luis Obispo Region)



Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

☎ How far from your home is the nearest...? (South County Region)



Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

☎ Which of the following public recreation opportunities would you like to see more of in San Luis Obispo County?

Response	2010
Bike paths	56.6%
Hiking trails	53.6%
Natural areas	51.4%
Parks	46.8%
Senior centers	41.8%
Playgrounds	39.9%
Sports fields	29.9%
Gyms	19.2%
No new recreation opportunities needed	7.9%
Other	11.1%
Total respondents	1,087
Total responses	3,894

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

Transportation

Long commutes and increasing traffic can increase stress and affect the health of community members.⁴ Fortunately, most (56%) San Luis Obispo community members live less than 15 minutes from work, with only 3% requiring over an hour to commute. However, overall, San Luis Obispo County has experienced increases in the daily number of vehicle miles traveled, which may be caused by higher levels of traffic volume throughout the area.



On average, how many minutes does it take you to get from your home to where you work?

Response	2010
I work at home	4.1%
0-15 minutes	51.8%
16-25 minutes	21.4%
26-35 minutes	10.4%
36-60 minutes	9.3%
Over 60 minutes	3.0%
Total respondents	544

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

Note: This telephone survey question was not asked in 2006.

On average, how many minutes does it take you to get from your home to where you work? By Region (2010)

Response	North County	North Coast	San Luis Obispo	South County
I work at home	6.7%	1.6%	1.2%	4.9%
0-15 minutes	38.2%	54.3%	71.9%	49.8%
16-25 minutes	35.4%	17.8%	8.0%	16.6%
26-35 minutes	7.6%	9.5%	10.9%	14.5%
36-60 minutes	11.0%	12.7%	1.6%	12.6%
Over 60 minutes	1.1%	4.1%	6.5%	1.6%
Total respondents	125	171	115	133

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Telephone Survey, 2010.

⁴ Gonzalez, O.I., Novaco, R.W. (2009). Commuting and Well-Being. *Technology and Well-Being*. Cambridge University Press.

☺☺☺ Please indicate if transportation is a “Major Problem,” a “Minor Problem,” or “Not a Problem” for you personally: (2010)

Response	Dependent Adults	Homeless	Spanish Speaking Parents
Major Problem	21.3%	47.4%	9.8%
Minor Problem	23.5%	29.3%	54.9%
Not a Problem	55.1%	23.3%	35.4%
Total respondents	136	116	82

Source: ACTION for Healthy Communities, Face-To-Face Survey, 2010.

Traffic Volume (20 Monitored Segments)

	2001	2003	2005	2006	2009	01-09 % Change
Peak Hour Traffic Volume	13,253	13,796	14,458	15,534	14,706	11.0%
Households	93,894	97,306	100,494	102,136	106,416	13.3%
Peak Hour Traffic Volume per Household	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.14	0%

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Resource Management System, 2010.

Household figures: State of California, Department of Finance, E5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2000-2009, with 2000 Benchmark. Sacramento, California, 2010.

Note: Measure of total peak hour traffic volume for 20 road segments in the county-maintained road network.

¹Population Growth is percent growth from previous year

Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	01-08 % Change
Arroyo Grande	120,420	204,630	199,700	200,700	200,700	216,610	79.9%
Atascadero	217,210	304,870	287,370	338,180	338,190	338,100	55.7%
Grover Beach	100,070	103,040	98,810	105,610	105,610	105,610	5.5%
Morro Bay	112,160	119,380	115,770	115,770	115,770	115,770	3.2%
Paso Robles	209,990	223,060	257,190	207,050	207,050	207,050	-1.4%
Pismo Beach	60,880	67,540	64,220	64,250	64,250	64,250	5.5%
San Luis Obispo County (Unincorporated)	418,670	460,700	443,810	433,360	433,360	425,680	1.7%
State Highway	1,127,460	1,177,260	1,166,930	1,221,310	1,221,310	1,221,250	8.3%
State Park Service	4,830,450	5,187,470	5,281,980	5,357,100	5,438,720	5,107,310	5.7%
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ¹	7,510	8,000	7,630	7,630	7,630	7,630	1.6%
U.S. Forest Service	NA	8,040	6,720	NA	NA	NA	NA
U.S. Forest Service	1,350	1,530	1,280	1,280	1,280	1,280	-5.2%
San Luis Obispo County Total	7,206,170	7,865,520	7,931,400	8,052,250	8,133,870	7,810,550	8.4%

Source: California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), 2008 California Public Road Data, December 2009.

Note: CalTrans calculates Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by multiplying the length of each given road segment by its traffic volume in a day.

¹In 2006 the US Fish and Wildlife Service became unavailable again.

Air Quality

Ozone and particulate matter less than ten microns (PM10) are indicators of air quality because they reflect the level of air pollution prevalent in an area. The state hourly average ozone standard is 0.09 ppm and the PM10 state 24-hour average PM10 standard is 50 ug/m³. In San Luis Obispo County, particulate matter measurements throughout South County have exceeded the state hourly standard on numerous occasions in the past several years, as well as the annual standard of 20 ug/m³. According to the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, the two largest sources of high levels of particulate matter are vehicles and roadways.



Summary: Total Days Exceeding State Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
San Luis Obispo County								
Ozone	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0
Particulate Matter (PM10)	26	10	40	16	20	1	19	22
South Central Coast Basin¹								
Ozone	59	33	34	45	23	17	23	9
Particulate Matter (PM10)	8	6	3	6	10	2	12	25

Source: For county level data: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Annual Resource Summary Report 2006 and 2009.

For South Central Coast Basin: California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, Air Quality Data Query 1997-2007.

Note: Ozone is measured every day. PM10 is measured every 6 days. The hourly ozone standard for the state is 0.09ppm. The state 24-hour average PM10 standard is 50 micrograms per meters cubed.

Note: Information not available for 2008 or 2009 at county level.

¹San Luis Obispo County falls into the South Central Coast Basin. Air basins are multi-county regions of the state that have similar meteorological and geographic conditions. Air basins boundaries typically follow county boundaries, but there are several instances within the state where air basin boundaries fall within a county, dividing the county between two or more air basins.

Number of Days Exceeding Safe Levels of Ozone

Location	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Atascadero	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Morro Bay	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grover Beach ¹	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Nipomo ²	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Paso Robles	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
San Luis Obispo	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Annual Resource Summary Report 2006 and 2009.

Note: Information not available for 2008 or 2009.

¹Grover Beach ozone monitoring terminated August 30, 2005.

²The Nipomo South Wilson Monitoring station closed in 1997 and reopened nearby at the Regional Park (Tefft and Pomeroy) site in 1998.

Number of Days Exceeding Safe Levels of Particulate Matter (PM10)

Location	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Atascadero	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Nipomo ³	NA	0	2	4	2	0	1	2
Paso Robles	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0
San Luis Obispo	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ralcoa Way ¹	16	5	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mesa to Highway 1	NA	NA	8	4	9	1	4	7
Hillview ²	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	13
Morro Bay	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Guadalupe Road (Nipomo)	5	4	9	4	9	NA	NA	NA

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Annual Resource Summary Report 2006 and 2009.

Note: The table shows the number of days when monitoring stations found air quality exceeded the State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS), not federal standards. Ozone monitoring takes place every day, while particulate matter is tested every sixth day. County-wide totals are the number of days a standard was exceeded at any monitoring station. Because a standard can be exceeded at more than one station on a given day, the county-wide total can be less than the sum of the individual monitoring stations. The hourly ozone standard for the state is 0.09ppm. Particulate Matter (PM10) refers to the mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air that are less than 10 microns in size. The state 24-hour average PM10 standard is 50 micrograms per meters cubed.

Note: Information not available for 2008 or 2009.

¹ Ralcoa PM10 monitoring terminated in 2002.

² Hillview started as a research station in 2004 and became a reporting station in 2006.

³ The Nipomo South Wilson Monitoring station closed in 1997 and reopened nearby at the Regional Park (Tefft and Pomeroy) site in 1998.

Water Supply

Securing an adequate supply of water in the state of California, which often faces seasons of drought, is important. It is essential that citizens and service departments in San Luis Obispo County closely monitor their water supply, distribution, and consumption patterns. In general, the Central Coast faces many challenges to maintaining a sustainable water supply, including issues of remote and isolated areas having difficulties accessing a stable water supply, as well as tendencies to overuse water in dryer or agriculturally based areas that are dependent on high levels of irrigation. In 2009, seven out of 19 communities reached a level III severity for their water supply and/or water system; signifying that their water demand exceeded their supply or their water delivery system had reached its capacity. Also, in water districts such as Templeton, Atascadero, Nipomo Golden State where the cost of water was relatively low, average single family water usage ranged from 22,000 to 30,000 gallons/month- a usage rate over three times as much as all other communities on average.



Average Water Use per Connection (Acre-feet per Year)

Community	2000	2001	2003	2005	2006	2008	2009	00-09 % Change
Avila Beach	0.34	0.27	0.29	0.22	0.21	0.26	0.23	-32.4%
Arroyo Grande	0.59	0.58	0.57	0.55	0.49	NA	0.52	-11.9%
San Luis Obispo	0.51	0.49	0.46	0.45	NA	0.45	0.43	-15.7%
Nipomo Mesa Area	0.83	0.81	0.83	0.76	0.74	0.72	NA	-
Pismo Beach	0.50	0.50	0.46	0.40	0.44	0.42	0.41	-18.0%
Oceano	0.48	0.47	NA	0.45	NA	0.42	0.43	-10.4%
Grover Beach	0.46	0.44	0.46	0.47	NA	0.41	NA	-
Atascadero	0.74	0.73	0.68	0.60	0.62	0.56	0.61	-17.6%
Paso Robles	0.80	0.81	0.81	0.71	0.75	NA	0.72	-10.0%
San Miguel	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.51	0.49	NA	-
Santa Margarita	0.43	NA	0.40	0.36	0.37	0.32	0.30	-30.2%
Shandon	0.41	NA	0.51	0.43	0.46	0.38	0.37	-9.8%
Templeton	0.63	NA	0.66	0.60	0.62	0.61	0.64	1.6%
Heritage Ranch	0.31	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.35	0.32	0.34	9.7%
Cambria	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.19	NA	0.17	0.18	-14.3%
Cayucos	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.22	NA	0.18	0.16	-15.8%
Los Osos	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.42	0.41	0.39	0.39	-20.4%
Morro Bay	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.25	-7.4%
San Simeon	0.54	0.50	0.50	0.45	NA	0.36	0.38	-29.6%

Source: San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building, Resource Management System Annual Summary Report 2009, 2010.

Note: Los Osos water use per connection is an average of rates reported from three different water purveyors.

Water Use by San Luis Obispo Residents, 2009

Water District	Average Single Family Water Use (Gallons/Month)	Average Single Family Water Bill (\$/Month)
South County		
Avila (CSD only)	3,740	\$39.50
Arroyo Grande	11,968	\$64.72
San Luis Obispo	6,732	\$46.93
Nipomo Golden State	21,879	\$41.54
Nipomo CSD	16,260	\$55.22
Pismo Beach	7,146	\$75.00
Oceano	8,864	\$54.34
North County		
Atascadero	23,000	\$39.88
Paso Robles	NA	\$34.50
San Miguel	3,303	\$55.39
Santa Margarita	7,929	\$44.61
Shandon	1,621	\$50.00
Templeton	30,294	\$41.27
Heritage Ranch	5,236	\$27.20
North Coast		
Cambria	4,488	\$30.06
Cayucos	4,376	\$44.40
Morro Bay	5,236	\$68.92

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Annual Summary Report, 2009.

Note: CSD is Community Services District. Grover Beach did not report water use for 2009. Los Osos is serviced by three different water purveyors, so a calculation for average single family water use is not available, but the average single family water bill rate ranged from between \$42-\$54/month.

Total Water Use in Acre-feet per Year (AF/Y)

Water District	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
South County							
Avila (CSD)	45.9	51.6	47.8	50.9	NA	75.9	76.7
Arroyo Grande	3,365	3,467	3,381	3,075	3,245	3,475	3,333
San Luis Obispo	6,610	6,429	6,448	NA ¹	NA ¹	6,420	6,322
Pismo Beach	2,121	2,153	2,135	2,112	NA	2,018	2,125
North County							
Atascadero	6,355	6,288	5,841	6,115	6,850	6,590	6,194
Paso Robles	6,598	7,145	6,959	7,444	8,130	NA	7,353
Santa Margarita	197	205	189	194	NA ¹	170	161
Shandon	130	150	147	156	151	125	122 ²
Templeton	1,315	1,460	1,438	1,540	NA ¹	1,558	1,641
Heritage Ranch	493	507	585	625	616	564	NA
North Coast							
Cambria	811	779	755	NA	NA	678	706
Morro Bay	1,417	1,423	1,400	1,384	NA	1,420	1,369
San Simeon	103	104	94	NA	NA	90	86

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Annual Summary Report, 2009.

Note: CSD is Community Services District. Data were unavailable for both Grover Beach and Los Osos in 2009.

¹Data is missing

²The 2009 figure is based on total water delivery.

Community Water Supply and Distribution, 2009

Community	RLOS ¹		
	Supply	System	Reason
Avila Beach	None	None	
Arroyo Grande	None	None	
Atascadero	None	None	
Cambria	III	None	Supply uncertainty during drought, need for additional water source in case of main well failure
Cayucos	None	III	LOS III based previously on CSA#10A allocation, but as of 2010 CSA has subscribed to 25 acre-feet/year from the Nacimiento Water Project, and this increase in supply removed the RLOS III severity rating for their water system.
Grover Beach	None	None	
Heritage Ranch	None	None	
Los Osos	III	III	Seawater intrusion accelerating, need to implement Basin Management Plan and aggressive water conservation plan to reduce basin pumping
Morro Bay	None	None	
Nipomo Mesa	III	None	LOS III Certified by Board of Supervisors
Oceano	None	None	
Paso Robles	None	None	
Pismo Beach	None	None	
San Luis Obispo	None	None	
San Miguel	None	II	CSD expects future supply of water to be from groundwater basin as community is remote from any water project
San Simeon	III	III	Supply insecure for isolated coastal community, securing additional water supplies remains problematic
Santa Margarita	None	III	Supply uncertainty during drought
Shandon	None	None	
Templeton	None	None	

Source: San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, Annual Resource Summary Report, 2009.

Note: Water Supply is measured by safe yield/extractions. Water systems are measured by percent of capacity.

¹RLOS stands for "Recommended Level of Severity." Levels include:

Level of Severity I: When projected water demand over the next 9 years equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply.

Level of Severity II: When projected water demand over the next 7 years equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply.

Level of Severity III: When the existing water demand equals or exceeds the dependable supply.



Water Quality

Water quality is a topic of major concern for residents of San Luis Obispo County, with 80% of survey respondents reporting being “very or somewhat concerned” about water quality in their area. The county’s cities, unincorporated communities, and rural areas face serious resource and infrastructure challenges which include protecting groundwater levels, securing new water supplies, and constructing water distribution facilities⁵. Currently, San Luis Obispo County does not require water wells associated with discretionary land use permits in groundwater basins with levels of severity to be part of the District’s water well level monitoring program. The Department of Planning and Building has recommended modifying the process of issuing well permits to require semi-annual measurements by the Department of Public Works. The lack of information on water use reported by purveyors has made it difficult to fully analyze water usage and determine proper levels of severity for groundwater systems. For the systems that are monitored, the number of annual violations has decreased since 2000-2001 for the small water and small public water systems, with a most recent violation rate of 3.2% in 2009.



Beach Advisories

From July 1, 2000 to July 31, 2010	Closures	Postings
Number of Days	3	836
Number of Beach Mile Days ¹	0.72	37.72

Source: San Luis Obispo County, Environmental Health Division, Beach Health Advisories, August 2010

Note: San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services takes ocean water samples at nineteen locations along the coast on a weekly basis. Samples are analyzed for three types of indicator bacteria, which at sufficient concentrations indicate the potential presence of microbes that may cause human illness. The results are compared to standards established by the State. If any of the State standards are not met, a Health Advisory is issued. A Health Advisory warns bathers to avoid water contact activities due to the presence of elevated levels of bacteria. An advisory spans fifty yards north and south of the area where the sample is collected. Beaches are posted with advisory signs and remain posted until sample results indicate that bacteria levels meet State standards. A beach closure occurs when a specific beach location is closed to all water contact activities due to a higher health risk associated with known hazardous waste spills, such as untreated sewage reaching recreational waters (San Luis Obispo County Department of Environmental Health, 2010).

¹ Beach Mile-Day is the distance of beach posted or closed times the number of days of posting or closure.

⁵ San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, *Annual Resource Summary Report*, 2009.

Samples from State Small Water Systems¹ and Small Public Water Systems²

Fiscal Year Activity Dates	Number of Violations	Number of Regular Inspection Visits or Samples	Items Checked at Each Inspection	Inspection Visits Times Items Checked	Violation Rate	Compliance Rate
7/1/2000 - 6/30/2001	96	1,963	1	1,963	4.9%	95.1%
7/1/2001 - 6/30/2002	87	1,800	1	1,800	4.8%	95.2%
7/1/2002 - 6/30/2003	89	1,843	1	1,843	4.8%	95.2%
7/1/2003 - 6/30/2004	88	1,858	1	1,858	4.7%	95.3%
7/1/2004 - 6/30/2005	86	1,824	1	1,824	4.7%	95.3%
7/1/2005 - 6/30/2006	75	1,767	1	1,767	4.2%	95.8%
7/1/2006- 6/30/2007	84	1,828	1	1,828	4.6%	95.4%
7/1/2007- 6/30/2008	52	1,809	1	1,809	2.9%	97.1%
7/1/2008- 6/30/2009	60	1,867	1	1,867	3.2%	96.8%

Source: California Department of Public Health, San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, 2007 and 2010.

Note: The sample data provided comes from 154 water systems. The samples are taken in order to represent the water quality provided to the consumer. Sample locations are not located at specific well heads. Often times there are multiple wells providing water to a water system so the number of wells themselves is not determinable.

¹ 5-14 Service Connections.

² 15-199 Service Connections, Non-community, and Non-transient-Non-community (NTNC) Systems.



Energy Use

Energy consumption per person has remained fairly steady over the last 10 years in San Luis Obispo County. The 2009 residential average consumption per person was 2,467 kilowatts per hour, a slight decrease from 2,487 in 2001. Over the last three years, the sectors with the largest energy consumption have consistently been residential (42%) and commercial (38%). However, it is important to notice that the agricultural sector has had an overall increase in consumption by 21% since 2006, despite decreasing energy use since 2007.



Residential Average Consumption per Person (Kilowatts per hour)

Year	2001	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	01-09 %Change
Consumption per person (KWh)	2,487	2,437	2,462	2,558	2,527	2,552	2,467	-0.8%

Source: California Energy Commission, Electricity Resources Data Group, 2006 and 2010.

Electricity Consumption per Account, by Sector (in Megawatts per hour)

Sector	2006	2007	2008	2009	06-09 % Change
Residential	674,499	671,649	684,643	669,587	-0.7%
Commercial	603,680	693,742	600,039	614,916	1.9%
Industrial	106,680	108,824	120,075	111,840	4.8%
Agricultural	174,129	271,205	224,522	210,209	20.7%
Total	1,558,987	1,745,420	1,629,279	1,606,552	3.1%

Source: California Energy Commission, Electricity Resources Data Group, 2010.