

## Utility Commission Report

The Conservation Team (Team) completed the Leak Report for Group 4 accounts and conducted follow-up outreach to resolve issues with highly consumptive accounts through calls, emails, and site visits. The Team participated in several community events, including the 2025 Lompoc Chalks Festival, City Hall's Community Trick-or-Treating event, and preparations for the annual holiday parade by providing lights for the City Float. They also completed final preparations for the popular Holiday Lights Exchange program, now in its fifth year, launching November 3rd. The Team began outreach to landscaping professionals to solicit community partners for the WaterSmart Demonstration Gardens at the Water Treatment Plant, with five entities expressing interest in contributing labor and materials. The Utility Conservation Coordinator (Coordinator) received student artwork submissions from LUSD for the 2026 Utility Conservation Calendar Art Contest, with voting completed at the end of October and winners to be announced soon. The Coordinator met with the Lompoc Valley Botanical & Horticultural Society to establish guidelines and plant lists for the WaterSmart Gardens and worked with Purchasing and Legal staff to finalize a revised Professional Services Agreement with Efficiency Services Group LLC. Additional meetings were held with Electric Division staff, the Northern California Power Agency, and Haven Energy to discuss topics such as Renewable Energy Credits, Low Carbon Fuel Standards, and potential energy storage equipment funded by the State of California. The Coordinator also attended the NCPA Demand Management Working Group meeting and the American Public Power Association's Electric Vehicle Interest Group Virtual Meeting for Q4 2025. The Team assisted with metering system identification at the Water Treatment Plant, reviewed Utility Conservation GL Accounts for potential project opportunities, and supported the Water Division with Route 20 usage data analysis. Press releases were developed to promote the 2025 Holiday Lights Exchange and solicit sponsors for the 2026 Conservation Calendar, with proceeds benefiting participating students. Additionally, the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Project at the Police Department was completed, and the required Single Urban Drought & Conservation Report for September was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board.

ACTION ITEMS: Updates to Electric Rate Assistance (ERA) program

Desired Outcomes:

Improved customer experience and expectations with real-time adjustments being made to the ERA program benefit amount.

Reduced staff time expenditures due to additional calculations and recurring research needed for future adjustments

1. ERA Benefit Amount Adjustments

Current: \$18/mo – 529 active ERA enrollees  
total ERA enrollees capped at 1,200 accounts w/ waitlist available

Potential Scenarios:

- a) ~30% increase to ERA to address 07/01/2025 rate change  
\$24/mo - total ERA enrollees capped at 900 accounts w/ waitlisting available
- b) ~30% increase + \$5 to ERA due to rate change and additional monthly charge  
\$29/mo - total ERA enrollees capped at 750 accounts w/ waitlisting available\*
- c) ~90% increase based on cumulative historical rate changes  
\$35/mo - total ERA enrollees capped at 620 accounts w/ waitlisting available

*\*Staff Recommendation*

2. Utility Conservation requests preauthorization for future ERA adjustments to be tied to the Residential Utility Rates Schedule for Electricity Customers.

For Example: residential electricity rates are decreased by 10% then the benefit amount would decrease by the same percentage and/or if the base Monthly Charge decreases/increases by a specific dollar amount the ERA benefit amount would be adjusted reflect the same.