

Public Workshop
3/18/2026, 5:30 PM to 6:20 PM
Shepard Hall, Santa Maria Public Library
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Residents in Attendance: 2 – refer to sign in sheet

City Staff in Attendance: Springer, Fishman, Baker, Alvarado, Ruiz,
Torres-Sanchez (bilingual interpreter)

Workshop started at 5:30 PM.

1. Resident Question: How does the City's population relate to the number of customer accounts shown on the slide?

Utilities Response: Each customer account represents one address for service. For example, a single-family residential property with one Trash cart is one customer account. Likewise, a multi-family apartment complex with a dozen dumpsters still only counts as one customer account.

2. Resident Question: Does the State give the City funding for fleet electrification?

Utilities Response: No; the City views the State's electrification requirement as an unfunded mandate. Concerningly, the Utilities Department piloted an electric truck in the last two years and learned that a single truck cannot complete a full route, which means the City must double its fleet to run the same routes. The City will wait to make this investment until it can no longer be delayed. The intention is to purchase the vehicles at the last available chance to be the most cost-effective for the community.

3. Resident Question: Regarding fleet electrification, are there any real estimates for the cost of power and maintenance for the charging infrastructure?

Utilities Response: This is difficult to predict. In the assumptions for this rate-setting period, operation and maintenance expenses are being maintained at current levels, but the expense of the charging infrastructure alone is currently estimated at about \$3.5-million. The estimates are made in coordination with the City Public Works Department Fleet Division based on best-known information.

4. Resident Question: Where does the green waste go?

Utilities Response: Engel & Gray Composting Facility on Ray Road, where it is composted and repurposed.

Workshop ended at 6:20 PM.