City of San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo, CA

Mayor Erica A. Stewart

Pledge Summary

The City of San Luis Obispo is located on the Central Coast of California and is in the path of the Monarch migration. We have a documented roosting site in town that we are monitoring, are working with community groups to increase pollinator plants and habitat around town in support of this iconic species. Mayor Erica A Stewart and all city staff are committed to supporting the Pledge and working on Monarch butterfly protection!

Action Items Committed for 2022

Communications and Convening

- Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.
- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).
- Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

Systems Change

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Erica Stewart	2026	2/4/2026	
Mayor Erica A. Stewart	2025	4/30/2025	Signatories
Mayor Erica A Stewart	2023	3/30/2023	
Mayor Erica A. Stewart	2022	2/14/2022	Signatories

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Mayor Erica Stewart	2021	3/4/2021	Leadership Circle

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

125

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

75 youth and 50 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.5

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

City property: creek corridors and parks

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

We are looking at planting opportunities in park lands located in marginalized community parts of the City.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

With a documented roosting site in the City limits, and several other roosting locations across the City, we are taking a stance to protect and enhance where we can in support of this iconic species that has suffered from different threats in the past number of years.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

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The City was successful in securing 2 hedgerow pollinator kits from the Xerces Society that were installed along Prefumo Creek and the City Farm property. Programs like this would be helpful to expand the reach of the conservation and education efforts moving forward. We also have a Beautification Gardner position created and filled to add bandwidth to expand plantings to more park lands across the City for all community members to experience.

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We are in the planning phase of 2 locations for habitat and roosting enhancement. The Promontory property has a few trees that have died in the near past so planning what species and where to put new trees to support the micro-habitat and roosting needs and the cemetery property needs new trees since the trees present are getting too big or have died to support the preferred habitat requirements for Monarchs. One of our community partner neighborhoods planted milkweed and nectar plants in the park they have adopted and they are growing well.

Selected Action Items

Issue a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat. This proclamation must incorporate a focus on monarch conservation.

Date of Proclamation:

October 4, 2022

Title of Proclamation (i.e. – Monarch Day or Pollinator Week):

Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day, October 8, 2022

Upload a copy of your proclamation.

10-04-2022 Mayors Monarch Pledge Day Proclamation - Signed.pdf

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

City Farm SLO, College Corps members, Watershed Stewards Program members, Friends of Priolo-Martin Park, SLO City Parks Division, the Office of Sustainability and Natural Resources, Creeklands Conservation

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Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

These groups were able to install nectar plants and native milkweed to new land owned by the City. We continue to engage with our Parks Division where native milkweed is located to prevent it from being mowed and educating the Parks staff members about the importance of these plants. The Beatification Gardner was recently hired, and we will be working closely with him to expand the installation of nectar plants across the City and in our downtown core; Mission Plaza.

Earn or maintain recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by participating in other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts (i.e., National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat program).

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

We were not able to secure a bonified recognition this term but the mission of the Office of Sustainability and Natural Resources supports these protection and enhancement efforts

What program was launched or maintained to complete this effort? (Please include a link to the program, if possible)

No bonified program completed this term.

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

17.70.100 Night Sky Preservation Ordinance.pdf

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

We already have this ordinance in our Muni Code

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Completed

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

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This was adopted previously. Not sure of the actual date.

If this action is In Progress, please describe your progress and a target date when you plan to complete action.

Already completed.

Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

2

What species were collected or propagated?

We collected Narrow-leaf milkweed seeds from a large population to get seedlings started.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

We partnered with the California Conservation Corps, City Utilities staff and the Monarch Joint Venture for the seed collection effort.

Please describe the milkweed seed collection and propagation effort that you hosted.

There is a large population of narrow-leaf milkweed at the southern edge of a bioretention basin and when the plants set seed, we collected several hundred seeds to propagate and distribute at Farmers Market and other events hosted by the City and other organizations to educate the community and offer them resources to help the monarchs by planting milkweed and nectar gardens around the City.

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