

LOCAC

Los Osos Community Advisory Council

July 16, 2012

David LaCaro
Central Coast Regional Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Dear Mr. LaCaro:

The Los Osos Community Advisory Council (LOCAC) and members of the public met on July 12, 2012 to make comments on the Staff Report on the Status of the Los Osos Water Recycling Facility Construction Project.

First, we would like to thank you for establishing a subcommittee to gather information on the status of the project regarding recycled water and the status of water reuse areas; the role of recycled water from the wastewater treatment plant and conservation in correcting seawater intrusion; and construction dewatering issues. We eagerly await the results of the subcommittee's efforts and their inclusion in the final version of this staff report.

Our comments and questions begin with LOCAC's primary concerns. Additional comments and questions contributed by members of the public follow.

LOCAC's Principle Concerns:

Dewatering

Our foremost concern is that no un-percolated water be discharged into the Bay. We understand that that is considered only as a last resort option to dispose of the output of the dewatering of trenches. We are requesting specifics of the decision criteria that will be used to determine when we have arrived at the necessity for using this last resort.

Mid-town Site

- It has been suggested that the Mid-town site may be unable to percolate all the water pumped into it for dewatering purposes and a pool of standing water may result. If so, the pool of water would present an attractive nuisance to children. What safety measures will be taken to ameliorate such a condition if it arises?
- If standing water does occur, what measures will be taken to protect the restored native plants from the deleterious effects of too much water?
- We recommend that you request CEQA reviews of the parts of the project that have not been previously subject to such review.

Broderson Site

- We request assurance, based on more current data that the Broderson site is not in line with the seawater intrusion path. We understand that there may be only a finger of seawater intrusion and we want assurance that it is not a broad front of intrusion before the site becomes operational. Our

concern is that the water delivered to the Broderson site may become effectively harmful if it ends up behind the leading edge of seawater intrusion and thus pushes it further into the basin.

ISJ Process

- We appreciate your efforts to stimulate action from the ISJ partners regarding these issues. And, we are concerned about continued pumping from the CSD's Palisades well and its potential to accelerate seawater intrusion. We urge you to continue, if not increase, the pressure toward resolution and revelation of the agreements made by the ISJ partners.
- What is the safe and sustainable yield from the upper aquifer after the Wastewater Recycling Project goes online taking into account the expected inefficiencies of the recharge process?

Water Conservation

- We strongly urge you to emphasize water conservation issues as a primary concern related to the Project and that conservation actions be implemented as soon as is practicable rather than relegated to the end of the project.

Additional Questions and Concerns of Members of the Public:

We realize that some of these may not be the responsibility of the RWQB and we felt that including all LOCAC member and public comments recorded at our meeting was important.

- Why are there different conservation standards for commercial versus residential uses?
- Is the Mid-Town site a basin or shallow indentation? What is its percolation factor?
- There is a high potential for cost overruns. Is this an issue that the RWQCB will consider?
- What parties are financially responsible if over-drafting causes cave-ins that affect houses and/or streets?
- Is it possible to allow for future expansion of the purple pipe system for recycled water use?
- There is continuing concern over the lack of information regarding the potential use of Los Osos Creek as a recharging site. It should be made a priority use for treated water.
- Why are dry farmers slated to receive treated water when that will not cut down on their current water use? What is the benefit? [Note: LOCAC supports this as a low priority use of recycled water.]
- Concern was expressed about the lack of a contingency plan for the Broderson site if it proves unworkable as a recharge site.
- Who (what facilities) are both willing and able to take the sewage from decommissioned septic tanks over a 12 month period?
- When will the agreement for the cemetery to take recycled water be resolved?
- Conservation actions should be applied to the entire basin, not just the prohibition zone.

Yours truly,



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