

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



California  
 Department of  
 Health Services

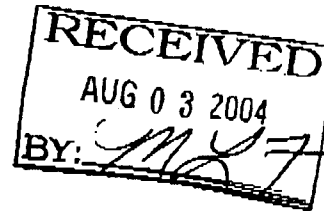
**SANDRA SHEWRY**  
 Director



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGG**  
 Governor

**July 30, 2004**

**Mr. Mike Reilly, Chairman**  
**California Coastal Commission**  
**45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000**  
**San Francisco, CA 94105-2219**



**Re: Los Osos CSD Wastewater Project**  
**San Luis Obispo County**

**Dear Chairman Reilly and Commissioners:**

The California Department of Health Services, Drinking Water Program (CDHS) has been working with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board over the last 20 years to provide a sewage treatment plant in the Los Osos area in order to protect the health of the residents and provide them with safe drinking water.

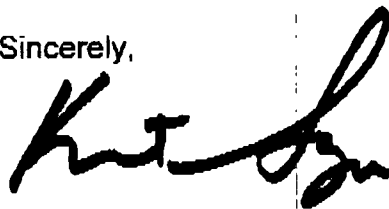
As you are aware, Federal and State laws and regulations have been implemented to ensure that the public drinking water supply is safe for consumption. The CDHS issues domestic water supply permits to water systems in California. The CDHS permits two large water systems in the Los Osos area. Both systems have experienced high nitrates in upper aquifer wells and their use has been discontinued. One of the more significant threats to health and safety is the purity and quality of the public's water supply.

Careful planning and research by the Los Osos Community Services District and the San Luis Obispo County went into the viability of this project. The appropriate cost, location, technology, and community benefit were considered in this project venture. Emphasis was placed on keeping the cost down; by centrally locating the underground pipe system, it will efficiently collect and treat the wastewater.

At a million gallons a day of raw sewage that currently go into the groundwater system, we can see no alternative but to move forward with the production of this project. The longer untreated sewage is released into the upper aquifer system, the longer it will take to make the water in that upper aquifer useful again. The responsibility of the California Coastal Commission is, by your own mission statement, to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations. This project exemplifies that position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kurt Souza, P.E.  
District Sanitary Engineer  
Santa Barbara District (CDHS-DWP)

cc:

California Coastal Commission Members  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2219

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