

1151 Bayview Heights Drive
Los Osos, CA 93402

October 24, 2005

Jeffrey S. Young, Chair
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Dear Mr. Young,

I moved to Los Osos in 1988 to be with my husband and to live and retire on the beautiful central coast. It was a part of the state where strangers smiled and said 'hello', the air was so clean and the sun so bright I had to wear sunglasses. Shortly thereafter, the State Water Quality Control Board imposed a building moratorium on this community to encourage us to move forward with the development of a wastewater system. Their position was that Los Osos septic systems were polluting Morro Bay and our water supply. After many years of studies, false starts, moving forward, and falling back, we formed a Community Services District to manage our affairs and develop a wastewater management system we wanted.

The directors were able to stem an impending fine from the Water Board on our community by achieving this, as well as qualify for a low interest state loan. It has not been an easy process but eventually a system was superiorly studied, designed, permitted, funded and implemented. Construction on the project was begun. All the while it has been stumbling forward, a very vocal group of residents have attempted every possible strategy to derail and delay it. Recently, they managed to frighten and mislead enough voters to get themselves elected to the CSD board and stop the already begun project. Mind you, only 50.37 percent (slightly more than 1/3) of the voters approved this board and their questionable measure to move the sewer out of town, while 49.63 percent (slightly less than 1/3) disapproved. The rest of the voters did not vote. Additionally, judging from their comments at a recently publicized meeting, I strongly suspect they do not want the treatment facility at all, despite what they say. This is very disheartening to me, because the price of the project keeps escalating with each delay.

I am writing this letter to ask for your immediate help in moving this existing project forward to insure our low interest loan, protect our Bond money, our construction permits, keep our contractors, save the potential \$35 million WRDA grant and to stop the pollution. The Water Board is poised to levy millions of dollars of fines on our community for not complying with their mandate. I do not believe this CSD board represents the community or fully understands what is at stake by their actions. Furthermore, they have conducted themselves dubiously so far by not conducting meetings properly, not properly agendaizing items, notifying the public nor providing staff reports or minutes.

Please look into this situation in Los Osos before members of our community suffer terribly financially, not to mention the pollution problem that is not being addressed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Johnston".

Michael T. Johnston
Los Osos Property Owner