

Santa Barbara LAFCO

Report on Options for 1) the Request by the Santa Ynez CSD to Include Los Olivos in the District's Sphere of Influence, and 2) a Pending Proposal to Form a Los Olivos Community Services District

June 2, 2016

Los Olivos Options –Santa Ynez CSD

- The Santa Ynez Community Services District (SYCSD), by resolution, has submitted a request to amend the district sphere of influence to include the Community of Los Olivos.
- The stated reason for the request is to provide services to a problem area identified in the Santa Barbara County Local Area Management Plan (LAMP). This would require the construction of a wastewater treatment plant or for property owners with failing septic tanks, replacement with an advanced septic system.

Los Olivos Options – Proposed Formation of a Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD)

- In March 2016, a draft petition to form a Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCSD) was submitted to LAFCO staff.
- Staff and LAFCO's Legal Counsel met with proponents and determined that the proposal as presented was incomplete because it did not include a financial feasibility study
- On May 20, 2016, a representative of the Steering Committee signed a contract with Berkson Associates to prepare a Los Olivos Special District Feasibility Study and Plan for Service for Wastewater Management. In addition, County Environmental Health Services is in the final stages of preparing an Engineering Focused Feasibility Study that will be completed in late June or July 2016.

Conclusion

- The Santa Ynez Community Services District's application to include the Los Olivos community in the districts sphere of influence (and eventual annexation) presents an attractive alternative to forming a separate independent special district.
- However, the community of Los Olivos wishes to maintain a separate identity and is looking at forming a community services district to maintain local control. The Feasibility Study and Plan for Service for Wastewater Management and County's Engineering Focused Feasibility Study should clarify the best alternative for Los Olivos to address its wastewater issues.

Recommendation

- It is recommended that the Commission provide direction to staff.