



LOS OLIVOS WATER RECLAMATION

March 11, 2016

Board of Directors
Santa Ynez Community Services District
1070 Faraday Street
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Re: Los Olivos Sphere of Influence Application

Members of the Board:

The Los Olivos Water Reclamation Steering Committee is a group of engaged residents, businesses and property owners who have come together to develop and evaluate community-based solutions to the wastewater regulatory issues facing Los Olivos.

As you know, the community has been considering several mechanisms to manage, develop and operate a wastewater collection and treatment system to serve Los Olivos. We have reviewed the Santa Ynez Community Services District (SYCSD) application recently filed with the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to amend the SYCSD's Sphere of Influence (SOI) to include the Los Olivos (LO) Special Problems Area.

Based on the information provided in the application and to the public to date, and at the advice of our legal counsel, we do not support the District's plan as proposed. In our opinion, the application is inadequate with respect to management, technical, financial and timeline detail and does not provide sufficient data to allow either LAFCO or the Los Olivos community to make an informed decision about the effectiveness and ability of SYCSD to responsibly manage our wastewater in the future. For example, Item 1 of the Application states "SYCSD is already formed and has adequate public services and availability to serve Los Olivos sufficiently". Yet the District fails to describe what services SYCSD would provide, how they will be performed, when they will be available, and what they will cost.

LAFCO and the Los Olivos community need complete information in order to make the best decisions on this issue, including specifics of how SYCSD intends to provide service to the Los Olivos Special Problems Area and at what cost. Currently, the Los Olivos Water Reclamation Steering Committee is exploring feasibility, costs and timeframes for various water treatment options, including the SYCSD annexation.

We request that the District withdraw its application and only resubmit it once the following have satisfactorily been addressed so both LAFCO and Los Olivos residents, property owners and businesses have the details on which to base an informed decision:

Los Olivos Water Reclamation
PO Box 553 | Los Olivos, Ca 93441 | (805) 245-3791
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info@losolivoswastewater.com

1. How and where would wastewater be treated and disposed? SYCSD does not currently own or operate a treatment plant.
2. Does it intend to send Los Olivos flow to the Solvang treatment plant?
3. Does it intend to build a new treatment plant in its service area?
If either of these, how does SYCSD intend to deal with the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan's limitations on sewer lines in Agricultural Lands?
4. Does it intend to build a treatment plant in Los Olivos?
5. Describe in detail the sewage services you plan to provide to Los Olivos, the system that would be required to provide those services and a timeline for when these services will be operational and available to customers in the Special Problems Area.
6. Describe in detail the methodology you plan to use to allocate Capital Costs and ongoing Operating and Maintenance Costs to the residential and commercial customers that use your service. Will Los Olivos property owners be billed at the same rate as your current customers?
7. If your plan includes the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant, how will the cost of that plant be shared among all users?
8. How do you intend to provide the registered voters and property owners in Los Olivos proportional representation on the SYCSD board?
9. Please describe your CSD's existing and latent powers that would extend to Los Olivos if our community is annexed in the future.
10. Is your district currently conducting feasibility studies or any other studies with regards to Los Olivos? If yes, please provide us with details on these studies.

We respectfully request that you withdraw the application and do not resubmit it until the residents, businesses and property owners of Los Olivos have been provided sufficient information and have determined whether it is in their best interest to support the Sphere of Influence application. We would appreciate your detailed response no later than April 22nd 2016. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Herthel
for the Los Olivos Water Reclamation Steering Committee

Copies to: Honorable Doreen Farr
 Mr. Paul Hood
 Mr. Lawrence Fay
 Steering Committee Members
 Mr. John Bakker, Esq.

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