

SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 667, Santa Ynez, CA 93460-0667 • (805) 688-3008

December 6, 2016

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Proposed Change to Sphere of Influence to Include Los Olivos

Dear Chairman Geyer and Honorable Commissioners:

Introduction

On June 2, 2016, your Commission discussed the pending application of the Santa Ynez Community Services District to amend the District's sphere of influence to include the Town of Los Olivos. At the conclusion of that meeting your Commission voted to delay any action on the District's application until you have information from a pending feasibility study and to bring the item back within 6 months. The matter is currently scheduled as an information item by your Commission on December 8, 2016. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the District's position with respect to its pending application.

Background

As a preliminary matter, the District does not view the critical wastewater situation in Los Olivos as an opportunity for the District to expand its boundaries, its power and/or its influence in the Santa Ynez Valley. The District's interest in this matter is to ensure that the urgent wastewater needs of the Los Olivos area are met. It is important to the District that appropriate wastewater services be made available to that area as soon as possible. To that end, in June of last year, the District sent a letter to the County encouraging the County to take a proactive role in addressing the wastewater disposal needs of Los Olivos and the serious threat that exists to water resources and the environment. A copy of that letter is enclosed. In its letter, the District states that (i) alternatives need to be identified and carefully evaluated, (ii) a plan needs to be developed to implement the best solution, and (iii) LAFCO representatives should be involved. The District offered to make its staff available to assist in identifying and evaluating alternatives. The District also stated that it is prepared to be part of the solution if it is determined there is an expanded role for the District to play in meeting the wastewater and/or water recycling needs of the area.

Sphere of Influence Application

The District became more actively involved in this matter earlier this year after numerous residents of the Los Olivos community asked the District to step in to provide service. In response to over 140 signatures submitted to the District by Los Olivos residents, the District filed an application with LAFCO to add the area to the District's sphere of influence. By

submitting the application, LAFCO has now been given the opportunity to evaluate and the responsibility to determine how the wastewater needs of Los Olivos can best be met.

SYCSD recognizes that, before service can be provided to Los Olivos, a design for the proposed wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system will need to be developed, the cost of that system will need to be determined, and financing will need to be arranged. Various studies will be required to address these issues. However, until LAFCO has determined whether or not the District is the appropriate provider of wastewater service for the Los Olivos area, the District is not in a position to expend resources, undertake further analysis, or address all unanswered questions. It is therefore important for LAFCO to make a decision regarding SYCSD's pending sphere of influence application sooner rather than later so that the necessary work can begin, either by SYCSD or a by newly formed community services district.

Conclusion

Both the commercial district and residential areas in Los Olivos have an immediate need for a long term, comprehensive and cost effective solution to their wastewater problems. The first step in addressing that need is for LAFCO to determine who the appropriate service provider is. Until that decision is made, a solution to the Los Olivos wastewater issue will continue to be delayed.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT



Jeff Hodge, General Manager

June 23, 2015

Supervisor Doreen Farr
County of Santa Barbara
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93463

***Subject: Meeting the Wastewater Needs of Los Olivos
and other Areas in the Santa Ynez Valley***

Dear Supervisor Farr:

The Santa Ynez Community Services District is an independent special district providing sewer service to the Town of Santa Ynez. The District owns and operates a sewer collection system and owns capacity rights in the Solvang wastewater treatment plant. The District collects wastewater from its customers and transports the wastewater to the Solvang plant for treatment and disposal. The District also manages the sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant located on the Chumash Reservation that serves the casino, hotel, residences and other facilities on the Reservation.

The District was formed to address failing septic systems in the Santa Ynez community and to protect local groundwater and surface water resources from contamination. In that regard, the District views itself as a pollution control and environmental agency.

The District's Board of Directors and staff have been following closely the need for improved methods of wastewater disposal within the Town of Los Olivos, as well as in other areas in the Santa Ynez Valley. The District believes that the wastewater disposal needs of Los Olivos have reached a critical level and that there exists a serious threat to water resources specifically and the environment generally. Both the commercial district and residential areas in Los Olivos are in immediate need of a long term, comprehensive and cost effective solution.

We are writing to solicit your support of the ongoing efforts by various residents and business owners to identify and implement appropriate solutions to this problem, and to encourage you to take a proactive role in addressing this issue. Numerous alternatives are available for providing wastewater service to areas that are currently unserved. These alternatives need to be identified and carefully evaluated. A plan then needs to be developed to implement the best solution. A blue ribbon committee, task force, or other working group organized by the County and assisted by qualified consultants is one approach that should be considered. LAFCO representatives should also be involved. Whatever approach is taken, it will be important to ensure that the process is transparent and to provide an opportunity for input by members of the public and other interested parties.

At various workshops held by the District's Board of Directors in the past, the Board determined that the District should be open to expanding its role to address all of the currently unmet needs for governmental services in the area, and should explore options for providing sewer service to various outlying areas. The District is therefore prepared to make its staff available, as appropriate, to assist and be involved in the process of identifying and evaluating alternatives for providing wastewater service to Los Olivos. The District is also prepared to be part of the solution if it is determined there is an

Supervisor Doreen Farr

June 23, 2015

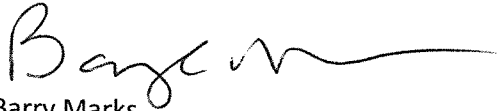
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expanded role for the District to play in meeting the wastewater and/or water recycling needs of the Santa Ynez Valley.

The District's Board of Directors thanks you for your attention to this important issue affecting the Valley.

Sincerely,

SANTA YNEZ COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Marks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barry Marks,
Board President