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DISTRICT UPDATE MARCH 2023

The LOCSD continues to diligently gather information and cost estimates for possible wastewater treatment solutions. A few highlights since our November 2022 update:

- First New Los Olivos Groundwater Monitoring Well Data in 30+ Years
- Effluent Disposal Study Completed
- Regional Water Quality Control Board and Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services December 2022 Community Workshop
- January 2023 Community Workshop to Better Understand Community Priorities
- Engaged Independent Engineering Firm to Make a Community Wastewater Solution Recommendation – Due February 2023
- New Grants Ad Hoc Committee Established

Your Board is steadfast in its commitment to implement a cost-effective wastewater treatment solution that benefits all LOCSD residents, property owners, and our business community. Any final wastewater treatment and water reclamation solution put forth by the Board will be the result of significant community input and is subject to a vote by District property owners in accordance with Proposition 218.

Groundwater Monitoring Well Update

In November, the LOCSD placed two groundwater monitoring wells near the northwest and northeast corners of the LOCSD. The approximate well placements are shown in the image below.

Water quality sample test results from the two groundwater monitoring wells were received in January. The results were as follows:

- Well #1 (MW-1) reported “nitrate as N” at 2.6 mg/L (12 mg/L as N03)
- Well #2 (MW-2) reported “nitrate as N” at 10 mg/L (45 mg/L as N03)

The “nitrate as N” maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water in the State of California is 10 mg/L. This means that MW-1 was below MCL, while MW-2 was right at MCL.

A copy of the hydrologist’s report on the drilling of the wells, including a summary of water quality sample test results can be found at:

https://www.losolivoscsd.com/files/23a90eb1c/Well_Construction_TM_MW1_and_MW2.pdf
A copy of the LOCSD's full groundwater monitoring plan can be found at:
https://www.losolivoscsd.com/files/61f8f5301/Groundwater+Monitoring+Plan+GSI+3.22.2021.pdf

With these first water quality sample test results now in hand, your District Board of Directors held a discussion about the timing of additional sampling and potential need for additional wells at its February Regular Board meeting. Your Directors general agreed that quarterly sampling and additional wells are needed. The challenge facing the Board is that additional wells and sampling are expensive propositions, and that without an additional funding source, sampling and drilling of additional wells will have to put behind activities that more directly solve our groundwater problem. The District will pursue funding assistance for continued monitoring work.

Effluent Disposal Study
The term "effluent" has different meanings depending on the context. The effluent disposal study received in December 2022 addressed what should be done with the "treated water" (aka effluent) that will be produced by our sewage treatment plan. The study was completed by a team of consultants from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. and Confluence Engineering Solutions. The study examined, in detail, five alternatives for effluent disposal:

1. Percolation Chambers
2. Percolation Ponds
3. Direct Injection into the Shallow Groundwater Aquifer
4. Alamo Pintado Creek Outfall
5. Reuse (Recycled Water)

As part of their examination, the consultants determined that Reuse (Recycled Water) was not an option that should be considered wholly separate from other potential uses. Instead, they recommended that this approach be coupled with other disposal approaches.

Following their research, the consultants recommended Percolation Chambers or Percolation Ponds, possibly combined with Reuse, as the preferred approaches for effluent disposal for the LOCSD. They recommended these approaches for the following reasons:

- Lowest permitting and effluent quality requirements of the primary alternatives evaluated.
- Visual social impacts of percolation ponds can be mitigated with percolation chambers, if desired.
- Limited construction or operational complexity.
- Lowest capital and operations & maintenance costs of the evaluated alternatives.

December 2022 Regulatory Workshop
Over the past several months, we have held public workshops or meetings to discuss topics such as gravity-fed sewer collection, septic tank effluent pump (STEP) systems, advanced on-site treatment, membrane bioreactor (MBR) treatment plants, plant siting, and associated project costs. Representatives from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Health Services organizations participated in a LOCSD focused workshop in December. The workshop was part an on-going effort to better educate community members about the regulatory requirements and expectations for any community wastewater solution. Following presentation by each organization, a robust question and answer period was held to help us all better understand the organization's role(s) in regulating water quality.

January 2023 Public Workshop
The LOCSD held a facilitated community workshop to better understand what is important to you in

January. As part of the workshop, attendees were asked to rank their general preferences related to future wastewater treatment and disposal efforts. Attendees were also asked to rank the importance of each of the topics discussed. Interested parties who could not attend the meeting in person were asked to fill out an on-line Google form survey. The survey is still available should you want to take it and can be found at: https://forms.gle/aReVraSGufqwHxXZ7.

The workshop was attended by nearly 60 community members, representing approximately 53 properties in our community. Survey results, including those submitted on-line, were tallied. Based on the survey, the following rank ordering for general interests resulted, where 1 is the highest priority for survey takers:

1. Construction Costs
2. O&M Costs
3. Ownership / Maintenance Responsibility
4. Location
5. Growth Inducement Potential
6. Potential to Generate Odors
7. Treatment Plant Size
8. Impact to Viewshed
9. Innovation in approach
10. Other

Attendees also ranked their preferences related to effluent disposal. Their preferences, in order, were:

1. Percolation Chambers
2. Reuse (Recycled Water)
3. Percolation Ponds
4. Shallow Aquifer Injection
5. Alamo Pintado Creek Outfall

These preferences, coupled with the discussion that followed, suggest that attendees would like the LOCSD to pursue a combination of Percolation Chambers and Reuse.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT: The Los Olivos CSD was formed by voters in 2018 to give Los Olivos residents and property owners within the district local control over how to provide a funding mechanism for the construction and operation of the facilities needed to collect, treat, and dispose of sewage, wastewater, and recycled water in Los Olivos.

Stay Informed: I hope you are attending our monthly meetings in person or virtually to stay current with our information gathering efforts and future deliberations about the best solution for Los Olivos. This is the most effective way for you to stay informed, to ask questions and get answers, and to ensure your ideas and concerns are heard. We post video of all meetings on our website should you be unable to attend a meeting in person.

Check the District's Website for meeting agendas and materials at losolivoscsd.com or phone us at 805-500-4098. You can also email the General Manager at gm.locsd@gmail.com.

Visit https://www.losolivoscsd.com/subscribe to sign up for email updates. Please encourage your neighbors, property owners and other interested community members to sign up as well.

If you have any questions about our District's efforts, please contact Guy Savage, General Manager, at gm.locsd@gmail.com or call him at (805) 500-4098.