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DISTRICT UPDATE – 4th QUARTER 2024

Happy Holidays! As we wind up our activities for 2024, the Los Olivos Community Services District (LOCS D) is anticipating several very important activities in 2025. We expect to make key decisions about how collection will be done, where and how we will treat our wastewater, and begin environmental impact reviews. Consequently, you will definitely want to be involved in 2025.

Overall, the LOCS D continues to evaluate technical approaches, obtain cost estimates, engage our community, and pursue grant opportunities for feasible, cost-effective wastewater treatment solutions for our community. This past quarter the District:

- Continued engineering efforts that evaluate the technical feasibility of potentially connecting the LOCS D to the City of Solvang’s wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Completed another round of groundwater sampling
- Hosted the Annual “State of the District”
- Continued “Coffee with a Director” - a twice monthly program that gives interested parties an opportunity to talk one-on-one with a LOCS D Director

More details can be found below.

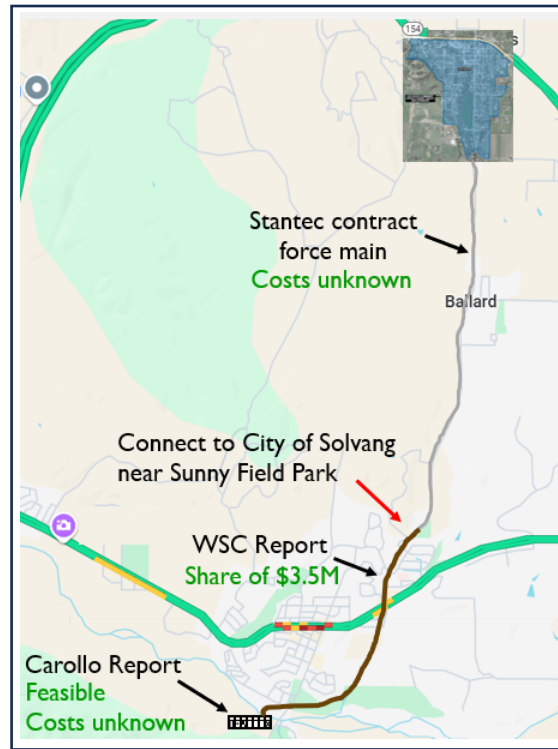
As noted in prior updates, any final wastewater treatment and water reclamation solution will be the result of significant community input, environmental review and then subject to a vote by District property owners in accordance with Proposition 218. Since the District is still evaluating technical solutions, no specific timeline for the property owner vote has been established.

Potential Connection to the City of Solvang’s Wastewater Infrastructure for Treatment and Disposal

Discussion regarding the potential connection to the City of Solvang’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and related infrastructure continued during this past quarter. The basic approach being discussed is that the District would collect our wastewater, then send it through a LOCS D-dedicated/proprietary sewer main down Alamo Pintado Road to a point identified near Sunny Field Park, where the City has an existing sewer main. Wastewater would then flow through City sewer mains to the WWTP where it would be treated and disposed. One of the key considerations is whether a sewer main going down Alamo Pintado Road could result in growth along the corridor between Los Olivos and Solvang. Our research says that as a community services district, we can size the pipe to meet our needs only and refuse connection to anyone outside the District who wants to connect. This means we can address the potential growth concerns raised in the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, which was adopted in October 2009.

In looking at a potential connection to the City, the District identified three primary areas to be examined and/or designed. The three areas are:

1. Capacity of the City’s infrastructure (sewer mains, lift stations, and pumps)
2. Ability of City’s WWTP to handle District wastewater while staying within permitting levels
3. A new District main from the District to Sunny Field Park



Connecting to the City of Solvang

Reports from Water Systems Consulting (WSC) and Carollo Engineering related to the first two areas were completed in November. WSC focused on the City’s infrastructure, while Carollo examined the impacts to the City’s WWTP. The third area is currently being looked at by Stantec and design documents are expected in April 2025. The reports from WSC and Carollo both concluded that connection to the City’s WWTP is technically feasible. The detailed reports can be found on our website ([click here](#)).

WSC’s analysis, which included a look at wastewater flows during both wet and dry seasons, concluded that for the LOCSD to use the City existing infrastructure, nine separate projects would be needed. Four of the projects were related to increasing the size of sewer mains and five projects related to sewer lift stations. Related work on the sewer mains and lift stations is already scheduled to be completed, since the City is regularly upgrading their infrastructure to address growth and aging components. This means that the District would have to pay a share of the approximately \$3.5 million needed to complete the nine projects. Some of the work would need to be completed before the District can connect, while other work could be delayed for a few years until the City performs their planned upgrades.

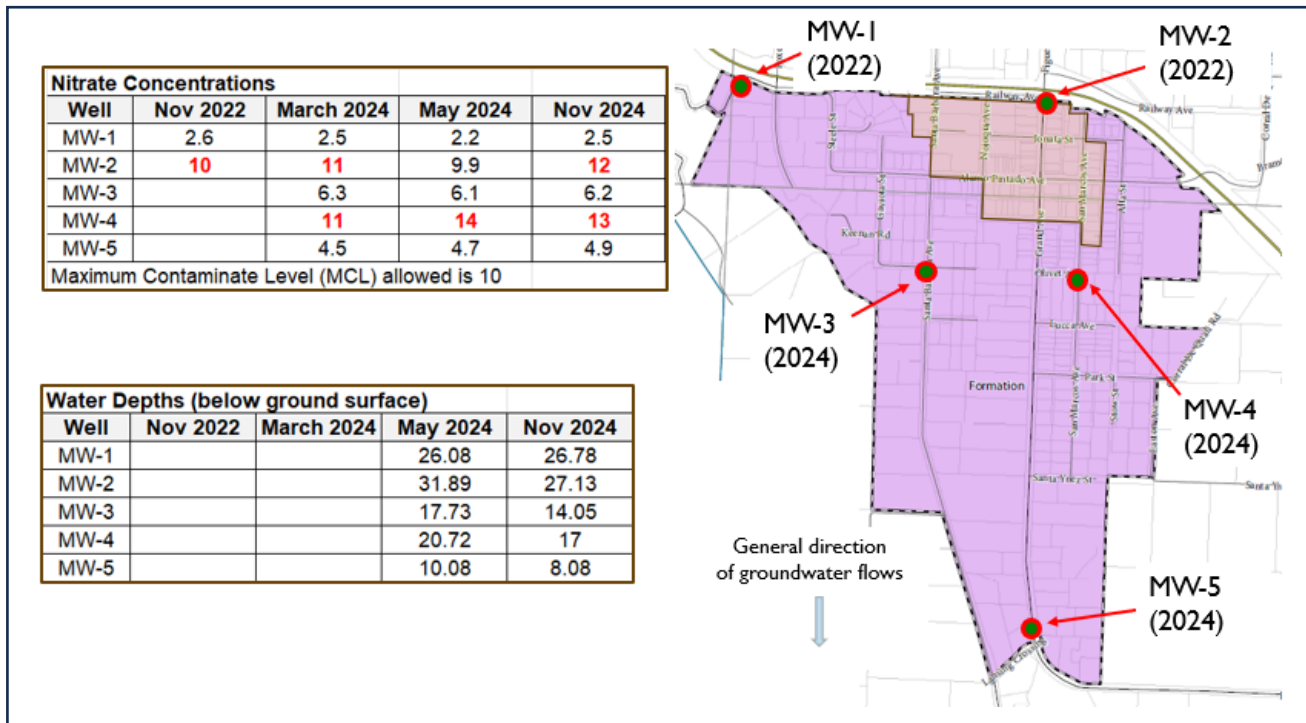
Carollo’s work focused on the WWTP itself and examined the impacts of the “loads” and “flows” of District wastewater on the City’s WWTP. Loads can be thought of as what is in our wastewater, while flows are best thought of as the volume of wastewater we would send to the City. To better understand the District’s loads, Carollo also considered our drinking water. Our drinking water source is ID1, which is different from where the City gets its water. Because our drinking water is the starting point for what would eventually flow to the City, Carollo carefully examined whether our loads would impact the City’s permitting limits. From a flows perspective, both WSC and Carollo considered seasonal variations. During wet weather, as much as four times the wastewater flows can be expected over those

experienced during dry weather. After carefully considering the loads and flows, **Carollo concluded that the City’s WWTP could handle the District’s wastewater once a currently underway project is concluded. The project, known within the City as “Phase 2,” is anticipated to be completed in April 2028 and is designed to address existing shortcomings at the City’s WWTP.**

No commitments have been made by the City of Solvang or the District beyond exploring the technical feasibility and potential costs of sending LOCSO wastewater to the City facilities for treatment. More discussions with the City are expected in the coming months.

Completed Additional Groundwater Testing

The District has five groundwater monitoring wells. GSI Water Solutions has been hired to obtain samples and get them tested twice a year (each May and November). The results of recent tests show that areas within the District continue to exceed the maximum contaminate levels (MCL) allowed for Nitrates. Exceeding the MCL is what caused us to be designated a Special Problems Area in 1974.



Groundwater monitoring wells and test results

General Manager’s Annual State of the District

In early December, General Manager Guy Savage hosted the third annual “State of the District” meeting. The meeting provided a recap of the past year’s accomplishments and offered an opportunity for the public to ask questions about on-going sewer efforts. If you missed the meeting, you can watch a video of the meeting or see the slides used on the District’s website ([click here](#)).

Monthly Coffee with a District Board Member at Lefty’s Coffee Company

A Board Member is regularly available for an hour of “open table” discussion with community members. Lefty’s Coffee Co. in Los Olivos has graciously offered to let Board Members use a table for these informal conversations. All you need to do is show up, no appointment necessary. As a general rule, a Director is there on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month starting around 9:00. If you have questions, but

cannot make a Friday morning, contact us directly (LosOlivosCSD@gmail.com) and we can set up a date and time for you.

UPCOMING WORK

Community Workshops – The District’s Board of Directors is keenly interested in continuing to obtain community input on potential wastewater solutions. In the next few months, the Board of Directors intends to host community workshops on:

- Treatment Options and Costs
- Collection, Treatment, and Disposal Options and Costs

The timing of the workshops will be heavily dependent on receiving the final report from Stantec, which is anticipated next April.

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 a local wastewater management solution and 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: [Attend our monthly meetings](#) in person or virtually to stay current with our efforts to determine the best wastewater 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 usually post video of meetings on our website within 48 hours should you be unable to attend a meeting in person.

Check the District’s website for meeting agendas and materials at losolivoscscd.com.

Visit <https://www.losolivoscscd.com/subscribe> to sign up for email updates. Please encourage your neighbors, local 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.

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