



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

March 21, 2023

Local Agency Formation Commission
lafco@sblafco.org
Attention: Mike Prater, Executive Officer
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: Conditioned Letter of Support for the Los Olivos Community Services District's Request for Proposition 218 Extension

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as our conditional support of the Los Olivos Community Services District's (District) March 16, 2023, request for a Proposition 218 assessment process extension. As you know, the District is pursuing a community wastewater system alternative to address groundwater nitrate contamination associated septic systems within the Los Olivos Community as originally identified by Santa Barbara County in 1974 when the Los Olivos area was designated as a Special Problems Area for septic systems. The Central Coast Water Board's 1989 Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) also identified Los Olivos as an area needing wastewater management planning due to nitrate loading from septic systems. It is the Central Coast Water Board's longstanding position that a community wastewater solution is necessary for the Los Olivos community's benefit and viability, consistent with the County's priority dating back almost 50 years.

This is the District's second Proposition 218 assessment process extension request for the community wastewater system alternative since the District was formed in 2018. Although we appreciate the efforts of the County over the last several decades and that of the District more recently to evaluate the feasibility of a community wastewater system, addressing this significant issue requires expeditious action on behalf of the District and County without further delay. As conditions of the Commission's approval of the extension, we recommend the District be required to 1) develop and provide an assessment process implementation schedule to be completed within the extension period, and 2) provide quarterly updates, instead of biannual updates, documenting implementation of the assessment process towards the objective of realizing a community wastewater system.

The Central Coast Water Board will continue to support the wastewater system evaluation and community engagement process in coordination with the County and

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District to help achieve the long overdue objective of protecting the Los Olivos community's water supply and achieving a sustainable water future.

For questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Matthew Keeling at matt.keeling@waterboards.ca.gov or (805) 549-3140.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Keeling
Executive Officer

cc: (electronic mail only)

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