



Mary Fullwood
[REDACTED]
04/06/2009 08:40 AM

To mwwinn@sbcglobal.net
cc scanor@co.slo.ca.us
bcc
Subject Fwd: Viewpoint Submission - Reply to County Staff on Los Osos Sewer

Dear Michael and Sylas,

Here is our Reply to the County Staff that we would like you to distribute to the WRAC. Thank you for your meeting on the LOWWP.

Sincerely,

Mary

Fullwood, Los Osos Representative

San

Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation

Begin forwarded message:

> From: Sarah Corbin <scorbin@surfrider.org>
> Date: Mon Apr 6, 2009 8:14:01 AM US/Pacific
> To: "letters@thetribunenews.com" <letters@thetribunenews.com>
> Subject: Viewpoint Submission - Reply to County Staff on Los Osos Sewer

> Please consider running the attached letter (also pasted below) in response to the Viewpoint article written by County staff regarding the Los Osos Wastewater Project.

> Thanks!

> Sarah Corbin
> Central California Regional Manager
> Surfrider Foundation
> scorbin@surfrider.org
> cell phone: 831 239 1520

> Viewpoint Submission - Reply to County on Los Osos Sewer

> Dear Editor,

> In the March 30 viewpoint "Gravity Solution is Best for Los Osos," SLO County staff writers attempted to give the impression that the Surfrider Foundation endorses or should endorse a single collection technology as the appropriate technology for all coastal sewer systems, by implying that Surfrider is inconsistent in supporting a gravity sewer for Santa Barbara while supporting a STEP/STEG system for Los Osos. Given the unique circumstances of each coastal community, we believe that various technologies need to be investigated to determine which will best serve the specific local needs for wastewater conveyance. Unlike the County staff, we do not promote a "one-size-fits-all" mantra and are not compelled to believe

> that implementation of a particular technology in one community makes
> this technology appropriate for all coastal communities.

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> Additionally, we are not of the opinion that the collection technology
> alone is what defines a sustainable wastewater project. In fact, we
> are discouraged that the opinion piece focused almost entirely on
> collection systems and failed to offer discussion on other important
> issues such as seawater intrusion remediation, beneficial reuse of
> wastewater, and resiliency in the face of global climate change. While
> we do believe that a STEP/STEG system makes far more sense for Los
> Osos than a gravity sewer due to the area's topography, high water
> table and proximity to an estuary, we see this as one component of the
> overall project—all of which need to work in harmony to protect water
> quality, address water supply issues, and withstand the many stresses
> of our changing environment.

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> It is regrettable that project staff are devoting their energies to
> composing opinion pieces against environmental groups. It is even more
> regrettable that the project team has given short shrift to the
> opportunity to fully investigate affordable solutions by not allowing
> STEP/STEG design teams to propose a project. Instead, the team
> is urging County Supervisors to not allow a STEP/STEG team to even
> enter a bid, thwarting a real comparison of costs.

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> No matter which system you may think you prefer, we encourage all
> residents of Los Osos to turn out for the April 7 Board of Supervisors
> meeting to urge the County to include a STEP/STEG design team in the
> County's request for proposals process. That way we can all see, for
> the first time, some real numbers. This is how the County can maintain
> its commitments to affordability and community engagement.

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> Jeff Pienak, Chair
> Surfrider Foundation, San Luis Bay Chapter

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> and

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> Sarah Corbin
> Central California Regional Manager
> Surfrider Foundation

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