Oceano Community Services District

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JUL 31 2013

PLANNING & BUILDING

Sue Luft, Chairperson WRAC
Dr David Chipping, Subcommittee Chair

RE: Proposed Laetitia Ag Cluster
Hearing Date: August 7, 2013

July 24, 2013

Dear Members of the Water Resources Advisory Committee,

The Oceano Community Services District (OCSD) is alarmed about the proposed Laetitia Ag Cluster. We demand continued study into whether or not the necessary water resources exist, prior to approving development. It is our understanding that Laetitia proposes to take 113 acres out of agricultural production and convert that acreage into one hundred, one acre parcel homes. The impacts of this proposed new non-agricultural water demand will have significant effects on Los Berros Creek's stream flow and riparian underflow. Some attention has been afforded to the potential to undermine riparian resources for the red-legged frog and salmonids. More importantly water for our residents in the South County, and specifically Oceano, may be negatively affected.

As you are aware, the Los Berros Creek is a major source of water to recharge the Oceano area. As San Luis Obispo County is a signatory to the Stipulated Settlement that is designed to protect Basin resources for the residents in the Northern Cities Management Area, the County should not approve this proposed agricultural cluster subdivision unless those impacts can be specifically shown not to pose a risk to Oceano's water supply.

This development proposes to create a mutual water company. This mutual water company will not enjoy an economy of scale and will prove costly and inefficient for the participants. It is difficult enough to run a water company even when there is a steady and sustainable water supply. The Laetitia water company's problems will be compounded by the uncertainties of their wells in fractured rock. Given their proximity to agriculture, a water company could not monitor and regulate their impacts on the water supply. They have no control over how much water would be pumped in any year for agriculture.

The OCSD takes exception to the "Recirculated Draft EIR" which ignores the concerns of the public and the stakeholders in the WRAC, in their previous DEIR. The subcommittee should look at the previous subcommittee's report and incorporate the

language there, of the defects that are being ignored in the RDEIR and make sufficient inquiry to resolve these discrepancies.

Both Fugro West and Geosyntec have independently expressed doubts that adequate water exists for this proposed ag cluster. The County of San Luis Obispo should require a Water Supply Assessment (per Section 10.9.10), ensuring that it is conducted by an independent firm.

In closing, the OCSD does oppose more projects going forward that threaten the water supply of our community or our neighbors. With these considerations, the OCSD requests the WRAC and the County of San Luis Obispo stop any project moving forward which could negatively impact the available water resources in the South County.

Sincerely,

Matthew Guerrero, President-OCSD Board of Directors

CC: Board of Supervisors

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