Philip D. Gray
1320 Archer Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 543-1500/Fax (805) 543-1590
Email: pgray@midstate-cal.com

January 29, 2009

Mr. Mark Hutchinson
Environmental Programs Manager
San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo. California 93408

Subject: **Don't Waste the Effluent**: Provide for its Re-use in the Basin
Draft Environmental Impact Report, County of San Luis Obispo,
Los Osos Valley Wastewater Project (LOWWP),
State Clearinghouse No. 2007121034, dated November 14, 2008.

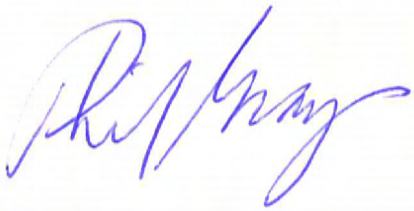
Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

The EIR should be modified to better cover the concept of returning all effluent water to the Los Osos Basin for re-use.

Present plans are to waste 842 AFY of treated effluent on sprayfields. Given our Level III water emergency, and continuing seawater intrusion, this is unconscionable. The EIR should evaluate, and strongly advocate, the return of all Los Osos' scarce water to its aquifer, by injection wells or otherwise.

This need not be expensive, since effluent-return pipes can be placed in the sewer-line trenches during sewer construction. This will really cut the cost of effluent return.

What it will take is concerted action by the water purveyors to pay their fair share of effluent return costs. But these costs will be far less than that of curing seawater contamination of the aquifer once it spreads. And the cost of recycling the effluent will be much cheaper than the cost of obtaining external water supplies.

We don't need a commitment now to do this; we do need the EIR to cover it as a desirable and viable alternative, so that it can be implemented in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.