

**Technical Memorandum Name: Decentralized Treatment, January 2008**  
**Commenter: TAC – Engineering Committee**  
**Comments Date: January 31, 2008**  
**Responses Date: September 22, 2008**

The following comments were submitted in response to the above listed Technical Memorandum (TM). The TM was developed as part of the EIR process for the project, in order to help facilitate and broaden the discussion of project issues important to the community. The responses should be considered preliminary because the EIR process is not complete, and the information necessary to fully respond has not yet been developed. The project team is grateful to those citizens who took the time to review the TM and provide comments at this early stage in the process. The project team will endeavor to fully address the comments and concerns through the on-going project development process.

	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	It is anticipated that the 30 plus new treatment sites would have to be re-zoned, what additional requirements would that create?	A primary proponent of a decentralized system for Los Osos is Pio Lombardo of Lombardo Associates, Inc (LAI). LAI has developed a conceptual plan for decentralized treatment with 7 separate collection zones and treatment plant sites. (See Appendices to Final TM). These sites would require zoning changes to public facilities and be required to undergo environmental review and permitting. All of the sites are within the Coastal Zone and are designated as environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA). Permitting includes a Coastal Development Permit which would require that there is no feasible alternative to locating a public facility in ESHA.
2	Discuss the need to prevent cross connections between the purple pipe system and the potable system.	Prevention of cross connections between potable drinking water and recycled wastewater is important. The recycled wastewater pipes on individual properties would be required to have a minimum separation from drinking water pipes, all pipes and appurtenances would be purple colored, and they should be labeled as recycled water, not for drinking. Additionally, the water company may require backflow prevention devices to be installed on their drinking water service laterals.
3	More discussion on septage handling is needed.	The proposed decentralized system would utilize a STEP/STEG collection system. The individual septic tanks on each property would require regular septage pumping (approx. every 5 years). The decentralized treatment plants in the community are not expected to be designed to accept septage, so the current practice of hauling septage to Santa Maria or other facilities would be continued.
4	More discussion on storage is needed	The LAI proposal does not require storage for treated wastewater effluent. Reuse and disposal would be to subsurface irrigation lines and drainfields, respectively. If irrigation demand is low, the effluent would be diverted to subsurface drainfields for disposal.
5	Flexibility for future regulation compliance or additional future treatment requirements appears to be lost.	Comment noted. The LAI proposal includes treatment to Title 22 recycled water standards.