

Technical Memorandum Name: Decentralized Treatment, January 2008
Commenter: TAC – Environmental 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.

	Comment	Response
1	Is it possible to generate a "Table 2"(from TM #1) for decentralized systems?	Table 2 in the Final Onsite Treatment tech memo (May, 2008) demonstrates that residential lawns cannot be relied on for sufficient removal of nitrogen from wastewater in Los Osos. A decentralized treatment concept for Los Osos has been developed by Pio Lombardo of Lombardo Associates, Inc (See Appendices to Final TM). The treatment process proposed includes a denitrifying filter and does not rely on nitrogen uptake from grasses or other vegetation.
2	Figure 1 on pg 6 indicates that significant cost savings may be realized through economies of scale by building a larger plant or plants as opposed to many small treatment facilities. (The source of the data and a legend are needed for this figure.) A 'Los Osos specific' financial comparison of building multiple smaller plants vs one larger plant is needed for the community to consider this option, and this analyses should include land acquisition, construction, staffing and maintenance, impacted resources, and energy use/carbon emissions.	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. Detailed cost estimates for this decentralized plan are presented in the Final Decentralized Treatment Tech Memo and appendices.
3	The decentralized approach of multiple smaller treatment plants would multiply community concerns over siting a wastewater treatment plant close to homes and public facilities, and simply finding available locations for the plants appears to be a substantial hurdle.	Comment noted.
4	Given the communities concerns over both cost and site locations, the feasibility of a decentralized system seems questionable and the EIR should examine this in more detail than presented in the TM.	Comment noted. Decentralized treatment options are further developed in the final tech memo and appendices and will be evaluated in the EIR.