

**Technical Memorandum Name: Septage Receiving Station Option, May 2008**  
**Commenter: TAC Environmental**  
**Comments Date: June 24, 2008**  
**Responses Date: July 18, 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	Would the wastewater treatment plan have to accept septage from STEP tanks from within the prohibition zone?	It is not known if this would be a requirement of a permitting agency such as the Coastal Commission, Regional Water Board, or Air Pollution Control Board as mitigation for traffic or air quality impacts. However, because STEP tanks would be part of the project subject to RWQCB regulation and permits, and given the regional issues associated with septage disposal, it should be assumed that collecting and treating septage from STEP tanks within the wastewater service area will be a requirement.
2	How does acceptance of septage from the septic tanks that are part of the community but outside of the prohibition zone change the calculations?	The septic tanks in Los Osos, but outside the Prohibition Zone, comprise about 12% of the total septage originating from the community, currently or with a STEP collection system. See Table 4 of the tech memo.
3	Does a STEP tank have to be pumped each time the filter is changed?	No, but the filter should be cleaned or changed each time the septic tank is pumped.
4	The EIR should analyze the impacts of the plant not receiving septage from the community that is not part of the prohibition zone. The carbon footprint from the additional hauling distance could be significant.	Comment noted.
5	On page 7, table 4, the assumption is that the full 1500 gallons volume of a STEP tank would be pumped. The table needs to be revised to reflect the actual volume of septage being pumped from the tank.	The assumption that septic tank pumping will remove that entire volume of septage is conservative, since pumper truck operators may not take the time to run the STEP pump and remove the liquid effluent before pumping the solids into the truck. This is not expected to affect the estimated impacts at the treatment plant because the solids loading would remain relatively constant, while the volume of effluent is insignificant compared to the total flows. Also, requirements to inspect the integrity of the tank on a regular cycle may require emptying the tank more often than currently occurs.