

**Technical Memorandum Name: Imported Water, March 2008**

**Commenter: Gordon Taylor**

**Comments Date: March 31, 2008**

**Responses Date: June 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	<p>The LOCSD obtained a state grant which was used to fund a study by Cleath and Associates of Salt Water Intrusion in our lower basin. Cleath/Harris produced a report on the subject in the summer of 2005. This led to a model of the basin that was used by them in the present project study.</p> <p>There was a companion report, "Water Management Plan for the Los Osos Valley Ground Water Basin" which came out at the same time. As far as I know, this is still the Water Master Plan for the LOCSD although subject to change because of the basin adjudication.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Cleath and Associates are part of the County's project team and helped draft this technical memo.</p>
2	<p>In this report Cleath /Harris included the headwaters of Los Osos Creek in their discussion of "Imported Water". This is referred to in the first paragraph of page 3 as the Clark Valley Watershed with the comment that Golden State has looked at this. I don't know that a definitive study has been made of the quality and quantity of water available, but on the surface this source of water seems infinitely preferable to either State or Nacimiento water. There is a hydraulic connection to our lower basin, but this hardly constitutes a reason for excluding it from consideration.</p> <p>Sure, it would take years and probably litigation to get this all straightened out. And I have no idea how the Water Purveyors would approach the project. But it seems almost certain, to me, that it would be necessary to provide treated effluent from the sewer project to the farmers in the alluvial plain of Los Osos Creek to replace the potable water pumped from "Clark Valley". The process will likely be complicated by the fact that the largest farmer in the valley is on record as opposing use of treated effluent. The subject was</p>	<p>The option of importing water from outside the Los Osos basin is an alternative for mitigating sea water intrusion related to the wastewater project. The County is the primary agency responsible for regional water supply and has the best ability to evaluate this alternative. This technical memo focused on alternative water supply from outside the Los Osos groundwater basin. This memo did not consider Los Osos Creek water from Clark Valley since it is a local water source. The County is working with the community water purveyors to develop a basin management plan to address sea water intrusion. This basin management plan will consider local options for enhancing the water supply.</p>

	<p>covered in a technical memo that was written by Mike Huck for the Ripley Report. He covered the steps that might be taken if there was opposition to the use of treated effluent. This, taken together with the regulatory problems, particularly with the Coastal Commission, means the project would be challenging at the very least.</p>	
3	<p>The current project is not affected by all of this except that it would be highly desirable to have some use of spray fields and winter storage in the disposal plan. This would provide the effluent that some day could be used in the ag exchange program.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Spray fields and wet weather storage are potential components of the wastewater project which would provide disposal capacity for the near future and maintain agricultural reuse options as a program is developed.</p>