

**Technical Memorandum Name: Imported Water, March 2008**  
**Commenter: TAC – Finance Committee**  
**Comments Date: April 28, 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	Stated Purpose of the TM: To weigh the environmental and financial costs relating to disposal options, compared to that of alternative water sources.	Comment noted. Imported water has previously been identified as an alternative to effluent reuse for mitigation of sea water intrusion impacts related to the wastewater project. This tech memo provides information on costs and physical impacts that will allow for the necessary review in the environmental analysis to compare imported water to effluent reuse options.
2	On P5-6 , it states that Peak seasonal requirements for the city of Morro Bay take up all the capacity of the Chorro Valley pipeline, so Los Osos could only pump during off peak seasons. a) When are those off peak seasons? b) What would be the effect on SWI in our aquifer if we only stopped pumping during off peak seasons? Does the time of year in which we pump have a varied affect on SWI.	Summer is the peak season for Morro Bay water demand. Seasonal fluctuations in water use are not expected to have an appreciable impact on the Los Osos groundwater basin. The basin is large enough that impacts are quantifiable on an annual basis.
3	Issues of imported water: a) Cost: including Buy-in, construction of pipeline, annual costs, and potential treatment costs. b) Questionable availability c) Water quality – particularly heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, etc. that are currently not regulated d) Reliability – mindful that drought and water shortages will become increasingly frequent. e) Impact on growth, development f) Institutional barriers	Comment noted.
4	Concern: SUSTAINABILITY should be goal, priority. This means increasing the sustainable yield, and/or reducing the demand. If imported water is being considered in order to relieve the demand on the lower aquifer, then other options should also be explored through	Comment noted. These water management strategies have been identified as potential options for development through cooperation with the community water purveyors. The County is currently working with the water purveyors to develop a basin management plan which will

	<p>technical memorandums, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Denitrification of the upper aquifer</li> <li>b) Agricultural exchange</li> <li>c) Direct Injection</li> </ul>	<p>identify feasible reuse options and the individual and cooperative roles for implementation.</p>
5	<p>We recognize that these efforts lie outside the purview of the county's wastewater project, and that imported water is discussed primarily in the context of disposal options. Furthermore, the alternatives listed above would require buy-in from the community and contracts with water purveyors and farmers.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
6	<p>However, any discussion of seawater intrusion mitigation must come from a comprehensive, watershed perspective. This will also include conservation and greywater re-use. We (Los Osos) look to the county to lead in this overarching effort.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Conservation has already been identified as a viable component of the wastewater project and the development of a basin management plan will identify the feasible reuse options.</p>