TAC Meeting – June 30, 2008
Announcements from the Chair

Welcome to the June 30 meeting of the Wastewater Technical Advisory Committee. This will be the last TAC meeting scheduled to discuss the technical memorandums produced by the county project team in response to questions from the independent project EIR team.

The two technical memorandums that we are discussing this evening are 'Project Alternatives Green Gas Emissions Inventory' and 'Regional Treatment'. As we did in the past, each item will first be introduced by the Project Team then discussed by the TAC prior to taking your public comment.

When the TAC was formed in early 2007, one of our first undertakings was to develop a set of core values which we would use as a basis for our pro/con analysis and also the comments we made on information presented to us on different aspects of the wastewater project. Environmental impacts and carbon footprint are two of those core values and their importance, not only to the TAC but also to the community, has been reiterated many times over in comments we have received from the public. This evening's discussion of the technical memo on greenhouse gases speaks to both of those issues and thus is highly pertinent to the selection of a project.

Our task on the TAC is to review, question, comment, and receive public input on the content of these TMs, especially as it pertains to the effects we believe it might have on the Los Osos community.

Those of you who might wish to comment during the public comment period should restrict your comments to the contents of the tech memo. If you believe that there is an alternative solution to the topic under discussion you should submit that information directly to the Project Team at LOWWP@co.slo.ca.us. In order for us to get through our agenda and adjourn by 9:30, I ask you to stay on topic.

The next and meeting of the TAC will be scheduled for sometime after the draft EIR is published.

Before we start our agenda, I would like to ask John Waddell of the county project team to make a few comments on the status of the project.

Water Infiltration and Percolation Concerns

Tom Ruehr
Soil Scientist and Resident of Los Osos
June 30, 2008 Comments to the TAC

Please direct your attention to the photograph being projected onto the screen. This photo represents water standing several inches deep in the pit dug on the Tri-W site in Los Osos, CA. Approximately the surface 10 feet of soil was removed thereby preventing any water infiltration problems due to the waxy hydrophobic condition commonly present in the surface soils.

The photo was taken at 11:30 a.m. on February 23, 2006. The San Luis Obispo weather station reported 0.17 inches of rain on February 17, 0.13 inches of rain on February 18, 0.09 inches of rain on February 19, and 0.01 inches of rain on February 20 with no further rain prior to the date the photo was taken. This represents a total of 0.40 inches of rain within the week prior to this photograph.

Obviously, water is standing on the soil surface 5 days after only 0.4 inches of rain had fallen. Why? A 6 to 10 inch thick clay layer exists at a depth of about 10 to 20 feet below the Tri-W site. This clay layer prevents downward movement of water in Los Osos. This same clay layer explains the presence of the lake in Los Osos hidden to common view. This natural lake is immediately east of South Bay Boulevard and north of Los Osos Valley Road in dense vegetation.

Similar clay layers will prevent effective deeper water percolation throughout the dune sheet in the entire region of Los Osos. To claim rapid water infiltration and percolation in Los Osos is a major mistake.

Why do Professional Engineers continue to make these very serious gross engineering mistakes? Is it because they do not take courses in the basic principles of Soil Science and water movement?

Tri-W Downtown Treatment Site, Los Osos, CA
Image date: February 23, 2006 11:30 am

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AND PROTECTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS
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June 30, 2008

John Waddell
San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo CA. 93408

Subject: MISSING GRAVITY SEWER TECH MEMO

Dear Mr. Ogren:

While recently reviewing the Tech Memo release schedule I noticed that no Gravity Sewer Tech Memo is scheduled. Based on the work to date and the increased interest in the small pipe STEP collection system, a full comparison of the Gravity Sewer is in order.

As a long time wastewater professional with over 20 years experience with gravity sewer systems operation and maintenance, I believe an assumption that gravity collection sewers for Los Osos as the accepted norm is quite probably in error today, and requires review.

The same level of scrutiny that has been applied to all technologies should be applied to the proposed traditional gravity systems, and in fact should bring all the issues to the forefront in a Technical Memo. The level of information available today will make the task fairly straight forward. The existing information developed for the project to date is piecemeal, I and by putting it in one place, the interest of the public and the success of the project are guarded. This will be especially useful for the TAC committee evaluation, and the draft EIR.

Under comparable scrutiny, within the TM, every single potential cost would be identified, quantified and presented for consideration. To not do this would only seem to contribute to the growing perception of a "bias" toward the blind selection of a higher cost gravity sewer, which is the very highest cost component of the project.

If we are truly committed towards the best wastewater solutions for Los Osos we must assure that the gravity sewer does simply not get a free pass. Below is just one obvious example of why a Gravity Sewer Tech Memo is needed to rid this process of any perceived bias:

V. Direct quote from section 3.1 of the Flow and Loadings Tech Memo:

> If, in the future, levels of I/I rise to the point that they threaten to overwhelm treatment capacity, then a maintenance and rehabilitation program can be instituted, or more treatment capacity can be added at that time. Page 6
>
> Comment:
> This is just one example of how gravity sewer gets a free pass. Two very obvious and potentially very large I/I costs;
> 1) Rehab program and 2) future additional treatment plant capacity are identified, but not quantified in the financial analysis of gravity sewer.

This does not even include the unacceptable regulatory costs for exfiltration pollution, and spills that are inherent in such an openly acknowledged "leaky system". For Los Osos I believe this is environmentally unacceptable, but on hard cost alone the baseline gravity sewer represents up to $200 - $300 per month- per homeowner-from day-one. The cost itself has been deemed economically unsustainable for Los Osos. Yet, how long will it be before these

identified added costs will impact the community again? In the examples from the community of Lathrop it was 2 years. Many other more conservative examples are available which I can share. However, this represents not only a very high risk; it is an unacceptable risk on its face, without strong justification and findings of benefits commensurate with the costs. This does not appear to be the case for Gravity, and is especially true when viable alternatives exist.

Throughout the Country current Gravity Sewer customers are being asked to pay the bill for degraded gravity sewer systems that were utilized to serve their predecessors. For example, the California 2006/2007 State Revolving Fund Program Priority List contains 63 projects that have I&I reduction or wet weather stated in the project job title. In addition to these 63 projects that are obviously attributable to I&I, there are numerous projects that are likely attributable to I&I These projects include equalization tankage, capacity expansion, emergency storage, sewer rehabilitation, collection systems upgrades, interceptor sewers and relief sewers. The 63 projects have a construction cost of more than $500,000,000. The SRF list is available at the following link:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/docs/srf/0607srf_plist_adopted.pdf

Specifically, the SRF funding list demonstrates that long term impacts of I&I and the associated costs are not being included as reserves within current rate structures. Costs will increase with the CMOM program and with increased permitting requirements and associated operating costs. The Flow and Loading memorandum, like the Fine Screening, continues the cost omissions by not clearly including any future remediation cost in the O&M cost for gravity sewers.

For a true system comparison, infiltration and/or exfiltration can be addressed through the design and costing of a completely water tight/sealed system, including the laterals and onsite joints. It is very important to note that after-action remediation is not acceptable as a solution to a flawed design. Additionally, no remediation, other than complete system replacement, is effective in removing all infiltration and/or exfiltration.

Please add Gravity Sewers to the schedule of Tech Memo's. Please feel free to contact me with regards to this issue, or other matters of the Los Osos Wastewater project, as Citizens for Clean Water is at you service.

Respectfully,

Gail McPherson
805-534-1913
mcp@charter.net

May 19, 2008

Overflows cost $35M in penalties

Gannett News Service

Gannett News Service analyzed federal data on fines and other enforcement actions related to sewage overflows from municipal sewer systems. The data is from the Environmental Protection Agency and covers from January 2003 to February 2008.

The GNS analysis found:

- At least one-third of the nation's large, publicly owned sewage treatment systems have been penalized by the EPA or state regulators for sewage spills or other violations. The penalties included fines as well as orders to fix problems or expand treatment capacity.

That doesn't mean other sewer systems are problem-

free. Federal and state environmental officials say they target systems with ongoing overflows that come to regulators' attention through routine inspections, complaints or large spills that generate headlines.

- Total fines amounted to $35 million. The fines were assessed against 494 of the nation's 4,200 municipal facilities that treat at least 1 million gallons of sewage daily. In addition, some states have levied penalties that aren't included in the data.

- Cities with the largest fines included San Diego ($6.2 million), New York City ($3 million), Los Angeles ($1.6 million), and Pittsburgh ($1.2 million).

- States where sewer systems paid the largest amounts in fines, both federal and state, were: California ($7.8 million), Tennessee ($3.4 million), New York ($3 million), Kentucky ($2.9 million), Maryland ($2 million), Florida ($1.5 million), Pennsylvania ($1.4 million), Indiana ($1.4 million), North Carolina ($1.2 million), and Oklahoma ($1.1 million).

- The EPA records show no fines were levied against sewer systems in Arizona, Hawaii, Kansas, Oregon, Maine, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia or Wyoming.

- The records showed no enforcement action of any kind for sewer systems in four states -- North Dakota, Nevada, Washington and Wisconsin.

Sewage and rainwater

There are two types of public sewer systems -- combined sewer systems and sanitary systems.

- Combined sewer systems, many of which are more than 100 years old, carry sewage and storm water in the same pipes. Under dry conditions, the sewage and water mixture travels to a municipal treatment plant that removes solids, most organic matter and harmful microorganisms.

During wet weather, the volume of sewage and water becomes too much for the pipes to handle. In those conditions, the system is designed to allow the mixture to bypass the treatment plant and flow directly into local waters through outlets called combined sewer outfalls. Such overflows are legal and don't result in fines.

Each year, combined sewer systems discharge an estimated 850 billion gallons of storm water mixed with untreated sewage into local waters, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Sanitary sewer systems are designed to carry only wastewater from toilets, sinks and showers. But these systems can overflow as well when excess water forces its way into the pipes through cracks or improper connections.

Sanitary sewer systems overflow about 23,000 to 75,000 times per year, releasing an estimated 3 billion to 10 billion gallons of untreated waste into local waters, according to the EPA. These overflows are unlawful.

Worst sewage spills

Examples of recent, major sewage spills. Some of these municipal sewer authorities already have been fined or face other enforcement action for these or other spills.

- A mechanical failure at Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant in Maryland sent millions of gallons of raw sewage into nearby Piscataway Creek in February.

- A 42-inch pipe ruptured near Fritz Island wastewater treatment plant in Reading, Pa., in January. while repairs were completed.

- Heavy rain, combined with deteriorating pipes, overwhelmed a Marin County, Calif., wastewater treatment plant in January, spilling 2.45 million gallons of sewage into Richardson Bay, which connects to San Francisco Bay.

Days later, an additional 2.7 million gallons of sewage spilled into the same bay when operators failed to engage all of the treatment plant's pumps.

- In August 2007, a ruptured sewer pipe spilled millions of gallons of raw sewage into the Hudson River just north of New York City.

- Improper excavation near Cary, N.C., ruptured a pipe and spilled approximately 8 million gallons of raw sewage into Swift Creek, Lake Wheeler and Lake Benson in June 2006.

- A pressurized sewer pipe in Honolulu burst in March 2006, spilling 48 million gallons of sewage into Ala Wai canal, which runs into the Pacific Ocean. High levels of bacteria detected in coastal waters closed Waikiki beaches for a week.

- About 14 million gallons of untreated sewage flowed into San Diego Bay between 2004 and 2006 due to improper construction of a Navy barracks high-rise.

- About 7.8 million gallons of raw sewage poured into White Clay Creek in Wilmington, Del., for 13 hours in August 2007 after a pump station switch and an alarm failed.

MEMO

TO: Los Osos Technical Advisory Committee DATE: 6/30/08

FROM: Frank Ausilio

Frank Ausilio
Los Osos

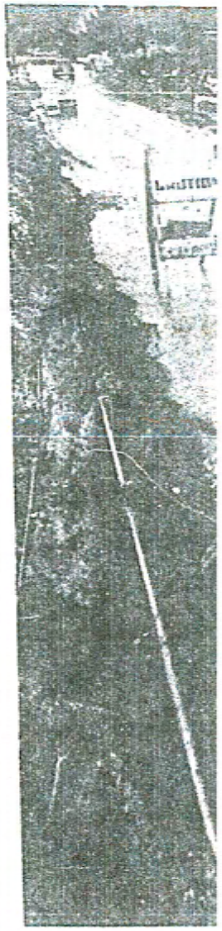
SUBJECT: Highland Drive & Bayview Heights floods

Attached are several pictures and articles from the Telegram-Tribune dated December 26, 1979 and from The Sun Bulletin dated December 27, 1979 and January 3, 1980. They depict the results of flooding on homes and property in the Highland Dr. and Bayview Heights Dr. areas following a severe storm. These are in addition to the copies of photographs I presented to you on June 9, 2008. These items provide more evidence regarding my concern that removing several acres of ground and brush cover from the Broderson site and then moving thousands of gallons of water to this site will set the stage for future flooding in areas that are already prone to flooding.

As before, I will continue to research dates, details, and photos of past floods to present to you.

Thank you again for considering this serious issue.

Attached: 6 pages



hotos by Mark Aronoff

Friends and strangers huff and puff to try to free John Witney's car from the mud and sand that washed down on the Los Osos home Monday morning. Water from the wee parently dug underground utiliti washed everything down Bayvie

San Luis Obispo County
Telegram-Tribune
111TH YEAR NO. 120 28 PAGES TODAY ★ 20c PER COPY WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26, 1979

A Christmas turned brov

By Ann Fairbanks
Staff Writer

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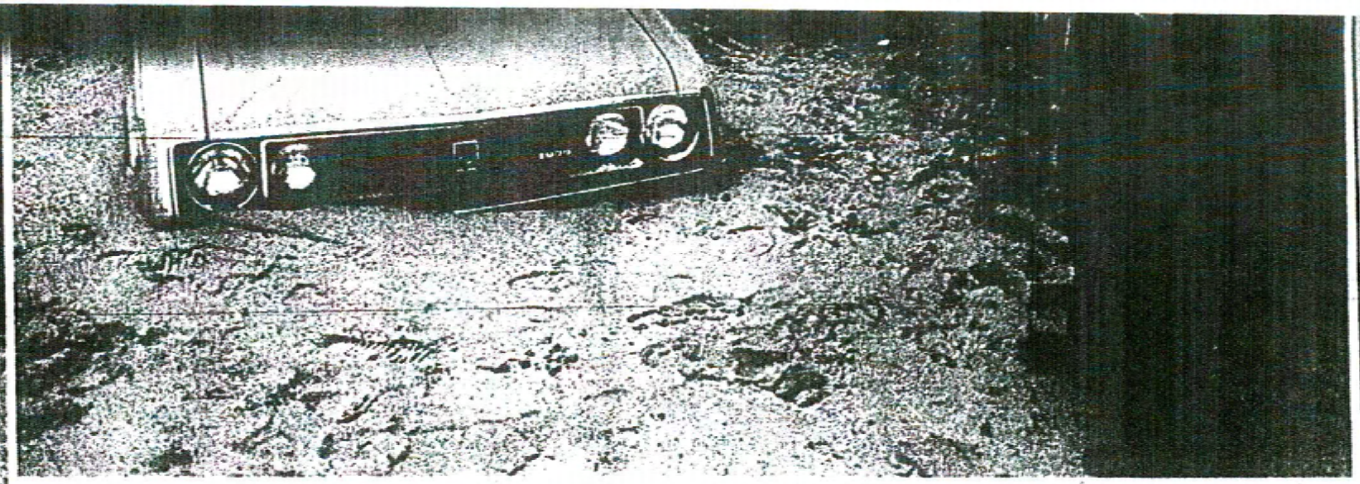
Standing in a pathway cut through the foot high sand in his home, John Witney, left, telephones the insurance company while neighbor Vic Davis, right, and Edith Witney, middle, sadly survey the damage on the outside of the Los Osos home.

Mud slides and power fails



Standing in a pathway cut through the foot high sand in his home, John Witney, left, telephones the insurance company while neighbor Vic Davis, right, and Edith Witney, middle, sadly survey the damage on the outside of the Los Osos home.

Mud slides and power fails

Coast cleans up after bruising storm

By Nancy Wishart and Lea Brooks

Encouraged by a promise of clearing skies on Christmas Day, Central Coast residents began clearing away mudslides, fallen trees, and downed power lines on Christmas Eve even while gale-force winds pelted emergency workers with steady rain.

The storm uprooted trees and tossed huge limbs into streets from San Simeon to Pismo Beach, where 9,000 residents were left without power for up to six hours Dec. 23 and Dec. 24 after 55-mile-per-hour winds snapped power lines.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. representative Doris Mello said the first calls about wind-caused power failures came at 8 p.m. Dec. 23. Twelve hours later service had been restored to most customers.

But the trouble was just beginning for the John Witney family in Los Osos, whose car was buried and house was filled with mud after a flood, then a slide broke through the front door of their house at 2316 Bayview Heights Drive.

"The mud blew out the whole downstairs, the Christmas presents, the Christmas tree, all the furniture," said neighbor Vic Davis.

The Witneys said they awoke at 2 a.m. Dec. 24 when water, blocked from its natural drainage, poured through the front door. The family was frantically mopping up the water when mud accumulated against the door, breaking the latch and sweeping into the living room and dining room more than a foot deep.

South Bay firemen built a sand dam to divert water from the house, aided by a county road crew. Witney said he filed a complaint with the county engineer two years ago about poor drainage after a sand slide reached his front door, but nothing was changed. He was not sure if his insurance covered the damage.

Widespread flooding was reported on South Bay streets, with sand and mud making many streets impassable. The worst areas were along Bayview Heights Drive and Highland Drive, firemen said, but El Moro, Tenth, and Eighth streets were said to be nearly as bad. Four inches of rain fell overnight in the South Bay.

Howling winds snapped an anchor line at the San Simeon harbor, driving a 30-foot sailboat onto the beach and forcing its owner, Jim Hecks of Sunnyvale, to swim for his life through the waves. He was not injured in the chilly dunking at 10 p.m. Dec. 23.

The Coast Guard has asked the sheriff's department to keep an eye on the safety of the sailboat, named the Erasmus, and park officials also kept a close watch on the Erasmus Dec. 23 as the winds built up, said Ranger Gig Loomis.

At 6 p.m. the Coast Guard cutter Cape Hedge started north to aid the boat in a trip described by machinery technician Mike MacKay as "really slow" because of giant waves. The sea was too rough to safely tow the boat and the Cape Hedge returned to Morro Bay.

High winds also caused two fires in Morro Bay, firemen said. At 7:38 p.m. Dec. 23 shorting power lines sent sparks into dry grass on South Bay Boulevard near Quintana. After firemen put that fire out, a utility pole burst into flames at 9:50 p.m. on Preston Lane.

Cambria Fire Chief Robert Cullen said residents of Happy Hill had a "fireworks display" when lines shorted there, which firemen watched over until PG&E crewmen arrived. Cayucos Fire Chief Virgil Borges reported many "shook-up people" who spotted shorts in power lines as the wind broke and crossed lines.

A Caltrans spokesman in Cambria said Highway 1 was open but advised motorists to stay home because of rocks and debris from the storm littering the road. He said Cambria received only .99 inch of rain in the 24-hour period ending early Dec. 24, but he said Gorda recorded 4.15 inches.

Morro Bay dredging

Life recalled at century mark

tos by Mark Aronoff

Friends and strangers huff and puff to try to free John Witney's car from the mud and sand that washed down on the Los Osos home Monday morning. Water from the weekend storm apparently dug underground utilities up, right, and washed everything down Bayview Heights Drive.

San Luis Obispo County
Telegram-Tribune
111TH YEAR NO. 120 28 PAGES TODAY ★ 20c PER COPY WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26, 1979

A Christmas turned brown

By Ann Fairbanks
Staff Writer

"It was quite a Christmas. In fact, I didn't even realize it was Christmas Day until somebody asked while we were digging what we were going to do about Christmas dinner."

So said John Witney of his and his family's Christmas, ruined by early Monday morning flooding and mudslides which caused at least $10,000 damage to his Los Osos home.

Of 27 calls received Monday morning by the South Bay Fire Department, the Witney home at 2316 Bayview Heights Drive was the worst hit by the mud and water, said Fire Marshal Sam Field.

"It'll be months before we ever get everything straightened again," Witney said this morning. "It looks like we just brought some furniture in from the garbage drump."

The nightmare began about 2 a.m. Monday "when I woke up and heard my wife and daughter downstairs saying, 'There's water coming in through the front door,' " Witney said.

"I can't remember the whole sequence of events, but my daughter fortunately left the front door to go to the phone and when she was on the phone the doors burst open and it just came in like a tidal wave," he continued.

"The water and mud just came sluicing through the house. We tried to, well, we got some furniture upstairs, but not very much, I'm afraid."

Figures compiled by County Service Area 9 indicated that 3.75 inches of rain fell in the South Bay between Friday and Tuesday. Field said 2 of those inches fell between 2:30 and 5 a.m. Monday. The water tore through the sandy gutter along Bayview Heights Drive, exposing underground cables.

"I assume that (ditch) is where the water and mud came from," Witney said.

He — along with his wife, Edith; daughter, Christine; and friends and neighbors — spent most of Christmas Day "trying to dig the sand away from the foundation — it was starting to soak into the walls," Witney said.

They've dug the mud off all the floors, he said, "and our next job is to go through our kitchen. Every lower cupboard is full of mud."

He estimated his home's value at $35,000 and said it suffered "at least $10,000 damage, probably more. And my insurance company has given me a very definite 'no.' They don't even want to come out and take a look."

His daughter lost her bed, all her shoes, her tape recorder — "everything that was on the floor," Witney said.

All the carpets "will have to go, since the water came up to the first step," he said. Among the ruined furniture are the dining room set, the television and stereo and two couches.

"One couch was champagne color. I don't have to say anything more. It has a black skirt on it right now," he said.

All his landscaping is destroyed and "the sand is heaped up so high, you can hardly see the house for it.

"You can go on and on. There's no end to it really. It's just a disaster."

Ed Kevorkian shovels mud that piled up under a bed. Christine Witney watches, left, and talks with her mother, Edith, right, in the back yard of their heavily damaged house in Los Osos.

County gets week to dry out

San Luis Obispo County should have at least a week to dry out from the rains that drenched it during the Christmas holiday, National Weather Service forecaster Bill Kline said today.

The storm dumped 4.53 inches of rain on San Luis Obispo — the first significant amount in six weeks. Los Osos got 3.75 inches and Atascadero 3.19. Arroyo Grande got only 1.79 inches during the storm which began Sunday night and ended Tuesday morning.

The rains should do "nothing but good" for agriculture, Farm Advisor John Evans said. "We needed that rainfall and it came in the right amount."

The rain will be important in getting pastureland grasses off to a good start, said

Storm damage — mainly from winds — disrupted electric service for about 20,000 Pacific Gas and Electric Co. customers in San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties, PG&E spokesman Barney McCloskey said. About one of every five PG&E customers was affected, he said.

Hardest hit by blackouts was Cambria, where about 100 customers were left without power for 12 hours, McCloskey said. He said power failures in San Luis Obispo lasted 15 minutes to six hours early Monday.

San Luis Obispo rainfall

Storm To date

Khomeini preparing Iran for military confrontation

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said today the U.S.-Iranian crisis "likely" could turn into military war and that Iran should be prepared for the possibility of

more than two hours with Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh following the emotional Christmas services they held for the U.S. Embassy hostages that raised questions as to

Inside today

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abreast of school happenings and moods by spending time observing from the inside.

The enthusiastic housewife and mother is no stranger to schools. Just shy of qualifying for her teaching credentials from the University of San Francisco Graduate School of Education, Mrs. George said she had volunteered in the classroom and library at Sunnyside School before being appointed to the school board. She called volunteers a ''dying breed in the country'' and stressed that they are very important. ''People are making that school go, not the physical plant,'' she said of a crowded Sunnyside.

She noted that the school board realizes this, too, and is giving more attention to volunteers. In turn, volunteers and the public must realize that the ''school board is an important place where they can make important contributions,'' she said.

Raises question

January 3, 80

By Nancy Wishart

Standing on layers of sand and debris five days after a powerful rush of runoff waters swept sand through his greenhouse and backyard terraced garden before pouring through the walls of his house, Los Osos resident Robert Huffman offered an apology.

''It's almost unbelievable. I wish I could show how deep this is, but I haven't dug through it. There's so much,'' he said.

''I once could barely reach this overhead pole (in the greenhouse), and now on top of this sand, I can hit my head,'' he said.

The Christmas Eve rainstorm confined its destruction to the exterior of the Huffmans' Green Oaks Drive home, although there was minor water damage to their carpeting.

Most of the 500 orchids on platforms in the greenhouse escaped harm, but an adjoining room, housing greenhouse equipment, was completely clogged with sand.

The entry door was blocked by sand and Huffman said he will break through the walls to determine the extent of the damage. The backyard flower and vegetable garden

(Continued on Page 5)

Cats face hearing on their fate

By Lea Brooks

Drainage: whose duty?

[Continued from Page 1]

was a complete loss, Huffman said.

"I don't know," he said glancing over to his wife and shaking his head, "I don't know how I'm going to get this sand out. I don't know where I'll put it. I just don't know."

The Huffmans awoke around 2 a.m. Monday morning to "the rainfall, it was a roar.

"There was nothing we could do but watch. We had put some water pipes in the back of the house (to divert drainage around the house), but the water and sand flowed over it. The pipes would have clogged anyway."

"I think the greenhouse saved the house," said his wife, Margaret. "Without it, the water and sand would have come rushing into the house."

The Christmas Eve rainstorm, which measured four inches in a 24-hour period and two inches within a span of several hours, carved a path of extenstive water and sand slide damage through four downhill homes.

The John Witneys, 2316 Bayview Heights Drive, were the worst hit, with sand and water levels of a foot throughout the first floor of their house. They are only beginning to clear the sand from their home into piles in the front yard. Friends and neighbors joined the cleanup crews, and a construction company owner offered to remove the towering sand piles Dec. 29. The Witneys estimated their damage at well over $10,000, including the cost of replacing the furniture and carpeting.

The John Clarks, who live behind the Witneys and next door to the Huffmans on Green Oaks Drive, suffered extensive indoor water damage. They also watched the runoff waters and sand destroy their front and back yard.

The water and sand traveled a block and a half, following the slope of the streets, to create a five-foot deep ravine alongside the Hoyt Fields home, before nearly burying a four-foot concrete wall at the back of their lot which empties into a parking lot on Los Osos Valley Road.

All four families spent this holiday season shoveling sand and repairing the damages.

"I like working in the yard," said Hoyt Fields attempting to be optimistic, "This is just a bigger job."

Meanwhile, Pacific Telephone, whose two-year-old underground cable running the length of Bayview Heights Drive was left exposed when sands washed downhill, began to refill the ditch Dec. 28. The company will be using a mixture of sand and cement for the refill.

The families have asked for county assistance to remove the sand and to prevent the mud slide from happening again but were refused. According to John Wallace, of the county Engineering Department, the county cannot come into private lands, nor is it responsible for any damage incurred by the residents.

The damage, said Wallace, was caused by "an intense amount of rainfall." Runoff waters were following the downhill contours

Surveying the ruins of his orchid greenhouse, Robert Huffman wonders how he'll get the mess cleaned up.

Photo by Bill Faulkner

follow the old traditional water course, which is where these houses are. It'll come back again," he said.

"No formal drainage system" was planned in the sub-division, Wallace said, and rains were expected to drain along the road.

The four families charge that the county was aware of the potential dangers of their homes, and failed to act responsibly by not constructing a drainage system.

"They knew about this," said Huffman, "but they didn't want to do anything about it."

No long-range remedy can be accomplished unless an assessment district is created, said Wallace, and money made available to the county.

South Bay Fire Chief, Ed Jablonski, who directed the early efforts to divert water from the Witney's house, concurred. "People assume the county's responsible for these things. They are not. I think these people should get together and

won't be the answer to these isolated problems, though."

This year's rainstorm was a repeat of the 1977 winter when rains severely damaged the same three houses. The Huffman's home was not built until 1978, although the lot was flooded. Sand and water reached the front step of the Witney's home during that storm.

The Witneys, the Huffmans, the Fields, and Keith and Sharon Lilley, who lived in the Clark's home, filed a complaint with the county at the time, but the county did not respond, they said.

"I spoke with the county then, and they did nothing. I don't think the county should have allowed those houses to be built without a drainage system," said Keith Lilley.

In the spring of 1977, several meetings were held to discuss the problem of flooding in the South Bay. The issue died as the skies cleared and the number of residents attending the meetings dwindled.

Cats

[Continued from P

Besides Mrs. Wissle manager, Ferd Dunn, complaint as did park Jennings. According to ment of Animal Regulati three persons need to si ment.

"You know darn we cats) don't do that," who has lived in the par "We enjoy watching t They're so cute. They'v to live. There are sev three kittens," she add

Blythe and Blair, wh two cats of their own, other park residents b some of the stray cat wander into the park dumped by their owner

The cats weren't fed property, stressed Blyt lot located at 460 Er street that dead ends at is accessible from Main

The cats were fed fence that separated th from the lot on Erroll S directly across from occupied by Mrs. Wis husband.

"We started out fe three cats," recalled the first thing we kne nine cats."

Blythe and Blair, co the potential cat pop decided to trap the c them either spayed or by one, the ladies caug had the operations per R. C. Hervey of San who "will do the job explained Blythe.

The operations shots were paid for by through donations. H rummage sales organ and Blair have reim their personal mon money left over by sales, the ladies also neuter the three kitte

After a confronta Wissler, Blythe calle Police Department, ed to the complaint to Mrs. Wissler Department of Anim

The nuisance a calls for a hearing a.m. Jan. 9 at the Animal Regulations.

Since receiving Blythe sprang into support from the been donating food cats.

Blythe also point

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