

# LOS OSOS WASTEWATER PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works



**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 26, 2007**

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- 1) Call to Order/Roll Call: Approximately 12:00 pm, Chairman Garfinkel called the meeting to order. All members in attendance.
- 2) Opening comments by Chairman Garfinkel (attached).
- 3) Paavo Ogren, Project Director, provided comments on the organization of the advisory committee and meetings. County staff has asked for a legal determination on the application of the requirements of the Fair Political Practices Commission to the advisory committee. Introduction of other County staff. Discussion of the County's process for alternatives analysis, Proposition 218 assessments, and the community advisory survey. Introduction of the report on "Potentially Viable Project Alternatives Rough Screening Analysis."
- 4) Advisory committee discussion on potential meeting schedule. Advisory committee work to be substantially completed by the end of July. Meetings to be held in either San Luis Obispo or Los Osos. Meetings for routing business will be held in San Luis Obispo, probably on Mondays from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Meetings in Los Osos will probably be on Monday evenings, beginning about 6:00 pm, and may be held every 2 weeks. County staff will create agendas for the meetings.

County staff will coordinate with the technical working groups. Working group meetings would not establish a quorum and can be informal. Updates on working group meetings can be provided verbally to full committee. Conclusions of working groups should be in writing and on agenda for full committee. Individuals should not divulge working group discussions to members of other working groups. **No action taken.**

- 5) Advisory committee discussion on reviewing alternatives and developing criteria for the pro/con report. Consensus was reached for the working groups to continue the discussion on criteria for the pro/con report and the full committee to begin discussion in approximately 2 weeks. **No Action taken.**
- 6) Public Comment Period.  
George Taylor: Requests copy of the Chairman's opening remarks and that a copy of the "Rough Screening Report" be available at the Los Osos Library and Los Osos Community Services District office.

Project website: [www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/LOWWP](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/LOWWP)

Project email address: [LOWWP@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:LOWWP@co.slo.ca.us)

Keith Swanson: Requests that working group meetings be open to the public. Discusses a regional wastewater plant with the City of Morro Bay.

Dave Duggan: Plans to continue video taping the advisory committee meetings and hopes to air them on public access television. Discusses a regional wastewater plant with the City of Morro Bay. Requests that meetings be held at the Los Osos Community Center.

Fred Dellagatta: Discusses a regional wastewater plant with the City of Morro Bay. Request more review of the project team's efforts and a copy of the "Rough Screening Report."

Gwen Taylor: Requests a list of advisory committee members and meeting schedule be posted at the Los Osos Library and Los Osos Community Services District office.

Al Barrow: Suggests that a summary be made of each working group meeting and that pro/con criteria be un-biased. Discusses the Proposition 218 process.

Richard Margetson: Requests that the entire agenda and related items be made available to the public. Discusses SRF loans and Regional Water Quality Control Board actions.

Keith Weimer: Discusses the County approach towards project technologies, and that the advisory committee explore alternative technologies such as STEP collection. Discusses the Proposition 218 process.

County staff responded to public comment: the Chairman's opening remarks will be included in the meeting minutes, the "Rough Screening Report" will be made available in Los Osos, working groups are required to take all finding and conclusions to the full committee, the committee is working to establish a meeting schedule, meeting schedules will be distributed to the "Los Osos email list-serve," an estimate of the full project costs will be made public prior to the Proposition 218 assessment proceedings, the Assessment Engineer will determine "special" vs. "general" benefits, STEP collection has made it through rough screening. **No Action taken.**

- 7) Date of next advisory committee meeting: consensus was reached to hold the next meeting on Monday, April 2, 2007 at 12:00 pm in San Luis Obispo.
- 8) Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.

I would like to welcome my colleagues, county staff and members of the public to this inaugural meeting of the Los Osos Wastewater Project Technical Advisory Committee, known as TAC.

I wanted to make a few comments before we begin this meeting.

First as we look around this room I notice that at one time or another, most everyone here has publicly voiced their support for building a wastewater treatment plant to serve Los Osos. That is the goal of this committee and for that we thank you.

I have attended the meetings and listened to the controversy surrounding the formation of TAC and the suggestion that it is not a true representation of all sides in the ongoing sewer debate. I'm not convinced that that is accurate nor relevant to our task as we will not be making a recommendation as to what the final project will be.

Although this committee was appointed and not elected, all of us are residents of Los Osos and like each of you over the course of events we have formed opinions on the nature of this project. I maintain that you would be hard pressed to find anyone, whether living in Los Osos or in the surrounding communities, who has not expressed an opinion on this project. The goal of our efforts however, is to get a wastewater project built in Los Osos and thus there should be no sides. We can assure you that there will be NO sides taken in our deliberations.

We on this committee have vowed to the County and now make that same vow to you that in the process of carrying out our duties we will set aside our past opinions, start with a clean slate and use our experience and backgrounds to fairly evaluate all of the proposals brought before us. We will work to ensure that the values and wishes of the residents of Los Osos are fairly represented.

TAC has been charged, as a first priority, to evaluate, provide feedback, and make recommendations based on our professional knowledge and the public input we receive on project alternatives. Our recommendations will be based on a thorough evaluation of the components of each alternative as to where they rank on a criterion of BEST TECHNOLOGY, LOWEST COST, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, and PERMITABILITY. We will then report to the Board of Supervisors on the pros and cons of those project alternatives as they are further developed by the Department of Public Works and its consultants.

In addition we will continually inform Los Osos on the progress of our deliberations as we lead up to the 218 vote. If that vote fails then all of our efforts have been for naught. We must not let that happen.

This committee will be completely open with the community and justify to it our conclusions and recommendation. We will NOT select any specific solution. That will fall to the voters of Los Osos. Our job will be to ensure that the voters have the accurate information needed to make that selection.

This committee requests that you do not prejudge our efforts but rather work with us to rid our community of this burden that Los Osos has carried for so long.

Thank you