

The Los Osos Community Alternative Sewer Plan is
BETTER, CHEAPER, FASTER

Solution Group • P.O. Box 6828 • Los Osos, CA 93412
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ALL ABOARD

**"THE LAST TRAIN IS LEAVING
THE STATION."**

*Rusty Areias, Chairman,
California Coastal Commission*

The Solution Group was gratified by the stunning 8-0 vote by the California Coastal Commission. The vote clearly told the community "We Heard You."

After years of frustrated efforts by the citizens of Los Osos to create a better sewer solution, it was the Coastal Commissioners who finally gave us a unique window of opportunity to begin to take charge of our community.

The Coastal Commission, in postponing the issuance of a discharge permit for the County's \$71 million sewer project, is acting as a shield against the continued threats of fines by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. "There is now an opportunity to take control of our own destiny," stated Gary Karner, coordinator of the Solution Group. "This brief reprieve now allows time and motivation for the County to fund an independent, objective, side-by-side evaluation of the County's sewer proposal and the Community Plan. The scope of the analysis needs to deal with only three issues: 1.) do the plans meet or exceed standards for denitrification, 2.) at what cost, and 3.) which plan is environmentally superior? We have already begun discussions with the County on how to create this analysis and are hopeful about the outcome."

The journey of so many Los Osos citizens from ground zero—the imposition of a ruinously expensive sewer system—to the very real possibility of a viable alternative that could save our community millions, prompted Supervisor Bud Laurent to note after the Commission meeting that, "This is one of the most amazing examples of democracy in action I've ever seen. I

am very proud of the citizens of Los Osos!"

From a despairing community without much hope, suddenly, within a few short months, the community rallied. Neighbors were stapling together signs in garages all over town, new energy breathed life into a decades-long battle for the community's voice to be heard. Soon, friends were calling friends on hastily organized phone trees, while hundreds of citizens came together for a SewerFest party and turned out in the rain for community meetings. Countless residents spent weekends walking precincts with petitions and information sheets to inform their fellow citizens, or sat in their kitchens writing letters, because that's the only power that was left to them.

Meanwhile, the Solution Group spent hundreds of hours and \$24,980 of our own dollars to pull together an alternative sewer plan which we feel will be more effective and cheaper to build and run, one that offers more bang for the buck.

It has been an astonishing effort by a community that CAN—a community that cares about doing the right thing, cares about itself, cares about its neighbors, and cares about its future. And the California Coastal Commissioners gave us an astonishingly rare chance to create our own future. But, as Coastal Commission Chairman, Rusty Areias said, "You have a lot of work to do."

Indeed, we do.

Since the January 16th meeting residents have begun asking what they can do immediately. "That's easy," stated Karner, "Get informed about the benefits of the Community Plan." Presentations can be made for groups of 20 or more of your friends, neighbors or organizations. Call Stan Gufstason @ 528-3973 to make arrangements.

YES!

What People are Saying

Q. Will this alternative type of technology (AIWPS™) work well in Los Osos?

A. "I think Los Osos is very well suited for an AIWPS™ system."

*William Oswald, PhD, Professor emeritus of
Environmental Engineering & Public Health,
U.C. Berkeley and inventor of AIWPS™.*

Q. What are the advantages of this type of technology?

A. "I've worked with mechanical and AIWPS™ systems. AIWPS™ systems are more efficient for treatment, low cost to build, easy to operate and low cost to maintain."

*George Milanec
Chief Plant Operator
St. Helena AIWPS™ System*

Q. Does it [AIWPS™] smell?

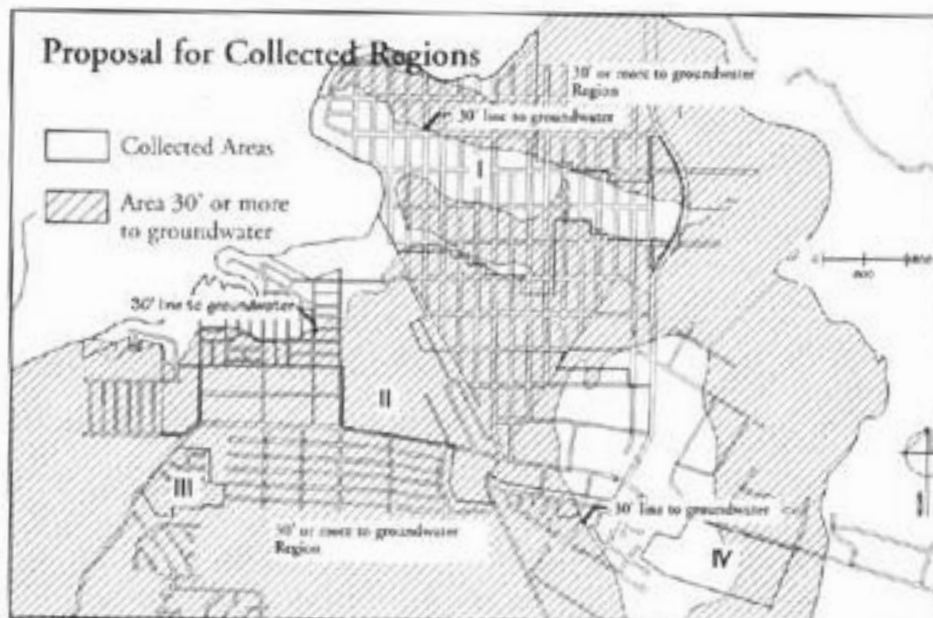
A. "No. I've never smelled anything and I don't know anyone who has."

*Reverend Beth Wheeler
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
St. Helena, CA*

Q. Why do you like the AIWPS™ system?

A. "The beauty of [it] is there's nothing to it...most engineer-types see this as a step backwards...that's because it's so simple and not reliant on mechanical devices and technology."

*Steve Thomas, Engineer
Ross Camoll, Inc., General Engineering Contractor for the AIWPS™ project in Delhi, CA*



In the Community Plan, all residents in Los Osos and Baywood Park receive benefits from the Comprehensive Resource Management Plan. The minimum benefits are: 1.) under the Septic System Maintenance/Management Program each resident's septic tank is inspected, maintained, repaired, pumped, and replaced if necessary; and, 2.) everyone has an adequate supply of drinking water without importation.

Residents pay only for the amount of benefit they receive

Monthly costs to residents	Total Cost
Single family, collected (prohibition zone)	\$ 38.75
Single family, not collected (prohibition zone)	\$ 22.25
Single family, not collected, on commercial water (outside prohibition zone)	\$ 14.00
Single family, not collected, on private well	\$ 9.88
Multi-family unit, collected	\$ 30.50
Multi-family unit, not collected	\$ 18.13
Mobile home unit, collected	\$ 22.25
Commercial unit, collected (per 10,000 sf)	\$ 38.75

Note: these costs are based on an anticipated total cost of the Community Plan of \$31.5-million; the source of financing to be from State Revolving Fund, 2.8% interest, amortized over 20 years. They include a flat \$5.75 monthly charge per unit for support of the Septic System Management/Maintenance program.

The Solution Group includes prominent members of the original CSA#9 Technical Advisory Committee and Blue Ribbon Committee, Citizens for Affordable Wastewater Systems (CAWS), Taxpayers Against Pollution Ponds Site (TAPPS), Community Services Area #9 members, Los Osos Community Advisory Council (LOCAC) members, local Realtors, seniors, businesspeople, scientists, environmentalists, and the District 2 Park Commissioner. We are working with two of America's most highly respected consulting engineering firms, and an international landscape architecture firm to assist our community in a better, more affordable wastewater plan.

The Solution Group members are:

Dr. Les Bowker, Ph.D., Biology; Wade Brim, Civil Engineer; Frank Freiler, B.S., Industrial Technology; Jerry Gregory, Realtor; Geol Gurley, Systems Engineer; Stan Gustafson, Attorney; Gordon Hensley, Field Biologist; Virgil Jua, Mechanical Engineer; Gary Karner,

Landscape Architect; David Mayfield, Mental Health Counselor; Pandora Nash-Karner, Marketing; Paul Reynolds, Real Estate; Dr. Thomas Roche, Ph.D., Soil Science; Bob Semenson, Architect; Roger Shields, Systems Engineer; Stan Stein, Architect.

Special thanks to Dan Parents, Architect and Principal Investigator for the Energy Efficient Resource Recovery Facility, Cal Poly; Dr. William Oswald, Ph.D. and Dr. Bailey Green, Ph.D. from Oswald/Green Engineers, Scientists, Planners, Richmond, California; Michael Parker, Civil Engineer, Le. Engineering, Roseburg, Oregon; and to the SWA Group, Landscape Architecture and Land Planning, Sausalito, California. The Solution Group is deeply indebted to these individuals who have contributed their services in developing this Plan at pro-bono or reduced rates, and are helping this community achieve its goal of an affordable, effective and aesthetic process which will solve multiple problems and create many benefits!

Locals find solution for Los Osos in other small towns

"Located amid the famed vineyards of the Napa Valley, people from all over the world come to St. Helena - to see its sewage plant." Sun Bulletin, November 11, 1997.

For over 30 years this beautiful little wine town has been hosting guests interested in learning how to solve wastewater problems in an effective, less expensive, non-mechanical way.

The Solution Group along with their consultants, has recommended the use of Advanced Integrated Wastewater Pond System (AIWPS™) technology for Los Osos. Like Bolinas, Napa, Sunnyvale, Esparto, and most recently Delhi, Los Osos may utilize a technology which is based primarily on natural systems rather than on mechanical systems. Constructed primarily of earthworks, AIWPS™ are easier, faster and less expensive to construct than conventional sewage treatment plants. They are also less energy-intensive and labor-intensive to operate and maintain. They have far longer plant life expectancy over mechanical systems.

The selected site is in the 54 acres located near the park, and a conceptual design has been completed showing the integration of the AIWPS™ system into a future park. Although the development of a park is not part of the Community Plan's budget, potential partnership possibilities exist. *"Your proposal has the significant benefit of providing up to 15 acres of parkland-openspace in the heart of Los Osos...such enhancements could potentially be supplemented with Public Facility Fee funding...providing additional recreational opportunities in the midst of this community goes a long way toward correcting the current lack of parkland."* Pete Jenny, Manager, San Luis Obispo County Parks, Dec. 29, 1997.

It's expensive to save a community!

All costs for printing and consultants have been paid for by the Solution Group. We have already spent over \$13,000 out-of-pocket, are indebted an additional \$12,000, and there are ongoing costs.

Will you please help?

If it's better, cheaper and faster, let's do it!

In a rare display of political solidarity, all three declared District 2 supervisorial candidates signed letters January 3, in support of the Solution Group's alternative sewer plan for Los Osos/Baywood Park.

The three candidates; Morro Bay's Mayor Cathy Novak, San Luis Obispo County's Planning Commission's Chair Shirley Bianchi, and Los Osos Advisory Council member Les Martin have banned together with their concern over the economic impacts and have recommended the Community Plan.

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"It is not often that a community takes it upon themselves to craft innovative, creative and cost-effective alternatives to expensive and environmentally harmful public works projects like the Los Osos Sewer Project...the Solutions Group is offering an alternative that could unite the community and achieve the goals set by the RWQCB."

Pat Veasart, Chairman
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

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"I believe as President of the Los Osos/Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce, based upon our recent written policy adopted on 1-3-98 at our annual Board of Directors' planning retreat, we deserve an expedient, fair, and impartial evaluation of the alternative sewer plan. Our written policy states that we support a sewer system that will lift the moratorium, is affordable and is expedient. The plan claims to reduce environmental damages and pollution, to cost \$30 million dollars less than the current proposed plan, to be faster to construct, to address flooding and drainage problems, to include 15 acres of land for future parks, and to be more affordable. I believe we deserve to have a chance to investigate."

Annie Mueller, President
Los Osos/Baywood Park
Chamber of Commerce

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"We endorse the Community Plan and recommend you support it too."

Virgil Just, Chair
CAWS

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"We believe in the Community Plan. It is affordable, safe, timely and effective!"

Dave Mayfield, Chair
TAPPS

Plan creates the possibility for a real town center for our future.

This Conceptual Plan for the treatment site and Town Center includes 9 acres of landscaping around the AIWPS™ plant and the purchase of land for future development of community parklands, a small government center, business facilities, senior and multi-family housing, roads, and surface drainage through the site (illustrated here). Other land uses might be substituted, such as a theater complex or business park, depending upon interest expressed by the Community or potential developers.

Location of the treatment site here provides a vehicle for future development of our Town Center. Construction and maintenance costs of facilities other than the treatment plant are not included in the Community Plan, but would be partnered for development with the County and private development interests.

LOS OSOS / BAYWOOD PARK
COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN - AIWPS™

The current plan is *too* expensive! Our representatives have tried valiantly to help find funding, and have not been successful. We must have a lower cost project which can be built quickly!

"The proposed sewer system is expected to cost each household approximately \$11,000, with the monthly costs ranging from \$100 to \$150 and the initial hook-up fee exceeding \$1000...in a community where an estimated one-third of the households are low to moderate income, many of them senior citizens on fixed incomes, these costs will have a devastating direct impact..."

Walter Capps, Member of Congress, June 11, 1997

"You should know I have been actively pursuing funding at the state level to alleviate the financial burden placed on Los Osos residents. Unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful in securing funding."

Jack O'Connell, California State Senator, July 29, 1997

"I am very concerned with the lack of funding for the project and the potential hardship it will place on property owners...I am continuing to search for alternative funding sources. Unfortunately, traditional sources of state funding...do not exist today."

Tom Bordinaro, Jr., Assemblyman, August 11, 1997

Los Osos Residents Can Save \$30 Million on Sewer

The wastewater treatment issue for Los Osos/Baywood Park has been ongoing for 20 years without a viable, multi-faceted solution that solves multiple problems and that is affordable. Now, we have a solution.

The Community Plan is a Comprehensive Resource Management Plan which reduces the combined cost of land acquisition and construction of the wastewater treatment program for Los Osos and Baywood Park by approximately \$30 million dollars, as well as solving other community needs.

Maximum monthly unit assessment under the Plan is \$38.75. The monthly cost per unit for operating the Septic System Maintenance/ Management Program is estimated at \$5.75 and the monthly financing cost for land acquisition, construction of the facilities, and connection to the collection system is estimated at \$33.00 for a Dwelling Unit Equivalent.

The Community Plan addresses multiple community problems with pragmatic, multi-faceted solutions.

The Community Plan:

- is affordable by the Community
- serves the entire Community and spreads the costs for the Plan

proportionately over the entire Community for benefits received;

- provides for wastewater treatment and reclamation to allow full build-out of the Community to a projected population of 22,500 in 2019 without needing to rely on outside water resources or water importation;
- provides for recharge to both the lower and upper aquifers;
- harvests the upper aquifer water from low-lying areas of the Community and returns that water to the potable water supply while lowering ground water tables;
- retains existing septic tank infrastructure in place and operation;
- retains existing septic tank and leaching systems in operation where there is separation of more than 30 feet from surface to ground water;
- establishes a Septic System Maintenance/Management Program over the entire community;
- utilizes a Septic Tank Effluent Pump system for collection in the low-lying regions of the Community, the commercial areas, the mobile home parks, and future subdivisions;
- utilizes an Advanced Integrated Wastewater Pond System™ for wastewater treatment which is based on natural systems, is effi-

cient to operate and maintain, and which does not require sludge removal;

- provides tertiary, disinfected level treatment of treated wastewater;
- provides nine acres of landscaping at the Advanced Integrated Wastewater Pond System™ site and 20 acres of landscaping at the recharge site;
- provides potential for future development of community park lands and open space, senior housing, multi-family housing, medical and/or office facilities, government center, roads and surface storm drainage retention at the town center;
- reduces or eliminates issues related to health, environment and habitat found in the County-proposed plan;
- provides optional opportunities for park development.

Take action

- 1.) **Get informed** about the benefits of the Community Plan." Presentations can be made for groups of 20 or more of your friends, neighbors, or organizations. Call Stan Gufstason @ 528-3973 to make arrangements.
- 2.) **Fill out the form below.**

- I am a resident in Los Osos/Baywood Park.
- I support the Solution Group's Community Plan which solves the wastewater problem, provides for future drinking water, addresses flooding and drainage problems, creates 15-acres of land for future parks, is less expensive and faster to construct.
- I support the SLO County Board of Supervisors requiring an objective, arms-length evaluation of the Community Plan concept and the current County Plan, using consultants knowledgeable about the technologies. The consultants must be objective and independent of County staff and its consultants, and of the Solution Group, and have no contractual relationship with either authoring entity.
- I am enclosing a contribution to help offset some of the costs spent by the Solution Group while creating a better solution to our problems. (*Thank you! Thank you!*)

Name _____

Address _____

Los Osos, CA 934

Phone/fax/email _____

**If you haven't
already filled out
this form, please do
so now and mail
before Feb. 14.**

**Solution Group
P.O. Box 6828
Los Osos, CA
93412**



Check enclosed